Stourbridge
CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 19, 2018 | Read by more than 52,000 people | Price when sold 70p

Big fundraising push to reach target for vital project

HOSPICE LAUNCH APPEAL FOR £1m

Report by Dayna Farrington

A HOSPICE is appealing for help in raising the final £1 million required to build a new day services unit, which will see an extra 40 families supported every week.

Having raised £2.5m through major grants and the use of reserves, Mary Stevens Hospice staff, based in Stourbridge, are asking the public to help them reach their final target of £3.5m.

Launching the campaign, Lesley Sidaway, one of the Hagley Road hospice's day service users, has spoken to help raise awareness of vital project.

Lesley said: "I can never truly tell the people who care for me here how grateful I am for the support I and my family receive.

Battling

"I know how lucky I have been to come here so regularly to spend a day with people who have become close friends, and a team of angels looking over me.

"My days at the hospice are some of the memories I most look forward to making, and everyone battling a life-limiting illness should have the opportunity to receive care, love and support. We, as a community, need this hospice, and now they need us."

As well as allowing the hospice to open its doors to 40 more families, the extension would also include new treatment rooms and an on-site family apartment.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising, added: "The care we provide in times of need for families simply wouldn't be possible without the support we have received from our community over the last 25 years.

"However, in the last five years, we have been full to capacity in our day services unit every single day, which means there are families out there in our community who would benefit from our care and simply can't access it at the moment. This expansion will ensure that we can care for more families when they need us."

A donation of £50 or more will see supporters commemorated in piece of art work which will stand in the entrance. To donate call the fundraising team on (01384) 377778.

FIREFIGHTERS CLIMB A LADDER TO EVEREST HEIGHT

Step to it – firefighters from Haden Cross get ready for their Everest challenge on Saturday at the Merry Hill shopping centre

TEN members of a Black Country fire crew will be climbing the equivalent of the height of Mount Everest to raise funds for a firefighting charity.

Firefighters from Haden Cross Fire Blue Watch and Green Watch will be scaling a ladder 126 times each at the Merry Hill shopping centre, outside Debenhams, on Saturday to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity.

The group will climb to raise the target of £1,000 with an online campaign already seeing £640 pledged in donations.

Blue Watch firefighter Matt Crawford, aged 35, who has been a firefighter for 11 years, said: "We are excited and proud to be able to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity. We are not nervous because we have trained hard and we know what to expect. We are there as a team and ultimately it is team work that gets anything done in the fire service.

"It is not as easy as you think it is to climb a ladder if you do it over and over again. The group have been exercising together trying to motivate each other."

Mr Crawford explained that they had been preparing for nearly three months both in the gym and on the ladders and every firefighter was doing it on their own time.

To donate to the cause visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hadencross online,

COURT

Teenager accused of rape and murder

A TEENAGE boy accused of raping and murdering a 14-year-old girl found dead in a Wolverhampton park has appeared before Dudley Magistrates Court

The body of Viktorija Sokolova was discovered in West Park last week.

The 16-year-old suspected of killing her, who can't be named for legal reasons, spoke only to confirm his name, address and date of birth in a five-minute hearing on Monday

He was remanded in custody and was due to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court this week.

HEALTH

Staff rebel over 'biscuit' uniforms

RUSSELLS Hall Hospital is replacing the uniform of its non-registered healthcare staff from blue to 'biscuit'.

Dudley Group NHS Trust, which runs the hospital, says it well help patients tell the difference between registered and non-registered care staff. But it has proved unpopular with some staff who have supported an online petition named Keep Dudley Group Uniform Blue.

RETAIL

£70,000 free parking scheme is launched

A £700,000 car parking scheme has launched. Shoppers across Dudley will now be able to park for two hours free across all council car parks in the borough.

The launch on Monday followed a successful trial of the scheme last year which saw shoppers able to park for the two free hours in Halesowen, Stourbridge and Sedgley from April to August.

INSIDE

WHO'S THE STAR LOT AT AUCTION

PAGE 4

GREENLINE
www.greenlinecoaches.com
greenlinecoaches@aol.com
01384 44 44 64

MON 7th MAY
LLANDUDNO QUEENS HOTEL
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £309

WED 9th - SUN 13th MAY
GREAT YARMOUTH NEW BEACH HOTEL
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £235

MON 21st/25th MAY
EASTBOURNE THE HADLEIGH
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £289

MON 28th - FRI 1st MAY
TORQUAY HOWDEN COURT HOTEL
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £259

WED 6th - 10th JUNE
PORTHCAWL SEABANK HOTEL
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £275

SUN 10th - 16th JUNE
NEWQUAY ELIOT HOTEL
Entertainment, Excursions, 7 Days..... £359

SAT 16th-17th JUNE
MYSTERY WEEKEND
Entertainment, Excursions, 2 Days..... £79

SAT 23rd-27th JUNE
BABBACOMBE HOTEL DE LA MER
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £269

MON 9th-13th JULY
WARNERS ALVASTON HALL HOTEL NEW
Entertainment, Excursions, 5 Days..... £375

SAT 21st - SAT 28th JULY Torquay
Entertainment, Excursions,
Howden Court 8 Days..... £399

FRI 3rd - SUN 5th AUG Torquay - Nethway Hotel
Entertainment, Excursions,
Motown Weekend 3 Days..... £115

SAT 8th - WED 12th SEPT Babbacombe
Entertainment, Excursions,
Hotel De Mer 5 Days..... £279

MON 10th - FRI 14th SEPT Scarborough
Entertainment, Excursions,
Red Lea Hotel 5 Days..... £299

MON 10th - FRI 14th SEPT Hayling Island
Entertainment, Excursions,
Mill Rythe Holiday Village 5 Days..... £239

FRI 14th - MON 17th SEPT Paignton
Entertainment, Excursions,
Hotel Bonar Esplanade 4 Days..... £199

FREE HOT DRINKS, SWEETS, BISCUITS SERVED BY ONBOARD COURIER

Like us on: facebook

LUXURY EXECUTIVE TRAVEL "SETTING THE STANDARDS IN PASSENGER COMFORT & CARE" *A FAMILY CONCERN*

CONTENTS

PETER RHODES	6
LETTERS	7
REVIEWS	18-19
THE TICKET	21
BRAIN GYM	27
MOTORING	29-30
LOCAL SPECIALISTS	31-32
SPORT	35-36

CONTACT US

EDITORIAL:
Tel: 01384 353201/01384 353205
E-mail: dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

SPORTS:
Tel: 01902 319453
E-mail: chron.sport@expressandstar.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHIC: Tel: 01902 319430
E-mail: picturedesk@expressandstar.co.uk

ADVERTISING: Sue Jones
Tel: 01384 399901
E-mail: sue.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

PROPERTY: Colin Bailey
Tel: 01902 313131 ext 3731
E-mail: colin.bailey@expressandstar.co.uk

MOTORING: Liz Barratt
Tel: 01384 353244
E-mail: liz.barratt@expressandstar.co.uk

CLASSIFIED:
Tel: 01902 317878
E-mail: my-classified@expressandstar.co.uk

DISTRIBUTION: Paul Jones
Tel: 01902 319990
E-mail: p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

Stourbridge CHRONICLE
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES
Open Monday to Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm
www.yourchronicle.com

Killer jailed for stabbing sister-in-law

Gheorghe Mihai – dangerous

A CONVICTED Romanian killer who tried to murder again after being allowed into this country has gone to prison for at least ten years.

Gheorghe Mihai, aged 38, stabbed his 23-year-old sister-in-law Roxanna Mihai five times in a car park off Lye High Street, just months after arriving in the UK.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told the 'highly volatile' thug: "You are a dangerous man who represents a serious risk of causing serious harm to members of the public.

"Loss of life by those who carry knives in the recent past has been a cause of grave concern in this country and courts will not hesitate to pass severe sentences."

Mihai was jailed for life and must serve at least 10 years before being considered for parole. The court heard that Mihai had battered a man to death with a piece of wood in his home country in 2004, resulting in seven years behind bars.

Mihai launched the savage attack with a large kitchen knife on his sister-in-law at a bus stop after she interrupted him talking to her husband, his step-brother Nicursor Gheorghe, from whom he was trying to borrow £5.

Witness Kieran Langan said the defendant, who lived in Park Street, Lye, looked like 'a man possessed' during the assault on August 7 last year.

The knife-wielding attacker has chased the terrified woman, stabbing her five times after she tripped. She was saved when her husband caught up and punched his step-brother in the face.

The defendant has denied attempted murder and possession of an offensive weapon but was convicted for both after a trial.

Thug is jailed after slashing dog's throat

A MAN who cut the throat of a dog during a row with his partner has been jailed.

David Owen held the Staffordshire bull terrier by its muzzle and slashed her throat with a carving knife.

The dog, called Lexi, miraculously survived the ordeal but RSPCA officers said she would have died had the blade gone a millimetre deeper.

Owen, aged 40, of Cole Street, Netherton, was jailed for five months at Birmingham Magistrates' Court over the attack on April 1 last year.

Lexi was left with the serious injury, which had been hastily bandaged, before the RSPCA became aware of the incident. Owen also sliced at the dog's left ear, leaving the tip hanging off.

When Lexi was examined, it was found a main artery in her throat had been missed by just a millimetre. Experts said contact with the artery would have meant her bleeding to death.

Recovery

The terrier has since gone on to make a full recovery and has been re-homed.

RSPCA inspector Steve Morrall said: "It really is amazing that Lexi has made such a fantastic recovery. The injury was serious but against the odds she pulled through.

"If the knife had gone just a tiny bit deeper I would have turned up at Owen's house to find a dog who had bled to death.

"Instead, despite being severely injured and in a bad way, we managed to get her veterinary help in the nick of time.

"Thankfully she survived this horrific ordeal and I'm so pleased that she has been adopted into a very loving family who dote on her."

Owen, who had been found guilty in his absence at an earlier hearing, was banned from keeping animals for life.

New owner Darren Chambers said: "Lexi needed somewhere nice to live so she could realise that not everyone is like the person who hurt her."

Puppies dumped by callous pair

Bonnie and Clyde were dumped in a bush in Kingswinford and the RSPCA want to find those responsible

TWO puppies have been dumped in a bush in Kingswinford.

A member of the public witnessed a man and a woman abandon the puppies in Stallings Lane at around 3.15pm on April 1 – before driving away from the scene in a BMW.

The resident retrieved the puppies and took them home before calling the RSPCA.

The puppies – who staff have now nicknamed Bonnie and Clyde – are being cared for at the RSPCA animal centre in Birmingham.

Vicki Taylor, RSPCA inspector, said: "The puppies are in reasonable health thankfully, but it does not make any sense at all why they were callously abandoned like this.

"Abandoning animals like this is completely unacceptable. We are just thankful that the dogs were found."

Anyone with information is asked to call the RSPCA on 0300 123 8018.

Parking fee meter stolen at popular beauty spot

THIEVES stole a parking meter from the car park of a popular beauty spot on the rural edge of the Black Country but it was empty of cash.

A gang of four men and a woman were captured on CCTV as a silver Vauxhall Corsa car was used to rip away the machine at Baggeridge Country Park, Sedgley. Police are appealing for information following the incident in Gospel End, which they were called to at around 9am last Wednesday.

No money was inside the machine when it was stolen but its value is said to be worth between £5,000 and £6,000.

Staffordshire councillor Mary Bond said: "All our car parking machines are emptied every day so they contain very little money. However, replacing the machine will involve further loss of income to the council and we now have only one working car parking machine at the car park.

"Baggeridge Country Park is very popular with our residents and around 150,000 people use the park every year.

"All of the money generated by parking revenue is reinvested by the council and helps run the park. I'd like to urge anyone who has information about who is responsible to contact the police."

West Midlands Police has asked anyone with information to call 101 quoting incident 139 of April 11.

Elkie gig rejig after losing voice

SINGER Elkie Brooks was forced to postpone her show in the West Midlands last weekend due to laryngitis.

The Lilac Wine star was set to play a greatest hits show at Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday, but was advised not to perform.

Elkie, aged 73, is best known for hits such as Pearl's A Singer, Fool If You Think It's Over, and No More The Fool.

The Salford singer's management stated: "Unfortunately, due to laryngitis, Elkie has been advised to rest her voice and is unable to perform at the Town Hall this weekend. She sends her sincere apologies and looks forward to being back on stage on the revised date."

Her show will now take place at the same venue on May 10. Tickets will be valid for the new date.

Golf charity links

A GOLF club will give a helping hand to families through its new charity of the year.

Hagley Golf Club has joined forces with Blackheath-based charity Loaves 'N' Fishes to help struggling families get back on track.

Able & Family Run Bromley Carpets / Beds Est since 1978
SOFAS, VINYLS LAMINATES, STAIRLIFTS
FREE delievery - disposal and set up on beds and suites
WE DO WHAT OTHER CARPET FIRMS WON'T.
Help move heavy furniture, up lift plus take away old carpets, Plus Shave doors
DISABLED? OAP? CAN'T GET OUT?
or anyone who just needs extra help!
Can't come to us, we'll come to YOU
We will bring 100s of carpet samples sofa and bed brochures to your door
Double divan bed, free headboard, 2 free drawers Was £699 Now £399
Heavy Domestic Saxonys from £7.50 sq yd was £14.99
3 Seater Sofa Only £399
Divan beds and mattresses from only £72.00
Carpets from only £3.50 sq yd
UP TO 50% OFF PLUS FREE FITTING (on selected carpets T&C's apply)
100's of rolls and end of rolls in store at knockdown prices WE WILL BEAT YOUR BIG SUPERSTORE
Click on-line for many great prices - Check out our video and 5 star reviews on www.ablecarpets.co.uk
Free quotes and Planning
Warehouse Unit, D Dormston Trading Est., Burton Road, Gornal DY1 3TD
OPEN: MON-SAT 9.30-5.00 SUNDAY 10AM-3PM
Quarry Bank · Lye · Wollescote · Kinver · Stourbridge · Pedmore · Brierley Hill · Wordsley
Find us on Google Maps
FREEPHONE 0800 0853747
WE COVER ALL AREAS
Adrian Bromley 01902 880541

Hearing Problems ...or maybe just ear wax?
DON'T SUFFER IN SILENCE!
The symptoms of ear wax are impaired hearing, dizziness, ear pain, a plugged or full sensation and ringing in the ear. It is very common for ears to become blocked with wax, leading to discomfort, pain and hearing loss.
You should never attempt to self-clean and always seek professional advice. We offer safe, gentle and effective methods of wax removal.
FOR A LIMITED TIME, WITH THIS ADVERT
25% OFF MICROSUCTION WAX REMOVAL
Stourbridge Hearing Centre
Stourbridge Hearing Centre 59 High Street Stourbridge DY8 1DE
01384 476 306

Footworks Chiropody
Keeping you one step ahead...
. Ingrown Toe Nails Treated
. Toe Nail Cutting and Trimming
. Diabetic Foot Care
. General Foot Care
. Callus Reduction
HCPC Registered & Foot Healthcare Practitioners
Home Visits Available
01384 413444
201 - 203 Halesowen Road, Old Hill, B64 6HE

Velodrome dismay for cyclists ahead of Games

A DECISION not to build a new velodrome for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022 has caused consternation among cycling enthusiasts.

It now seems likely that Birmingham and the Black Country's games will see cycling events taking place in London, despite the region's long and proud cycling heritage.

David Viner, a trustee at Halesowen Cycling and Athletic Club, said the £70 million investment in the Alexander Stadium announced by Prime Minister Theresa May last week showed there could be money made available for a velodrome.

A multi-million pound aquatics centre is also be built in Smethwick to host swimming and diving events in four years' time.

The countdown for the Birmingham Games started on Sunday with a handover event seen by a TV audience of millions as the 2018 Games on Australia's Gold Coast drew to a close.

Mr Viner said: "Following on from £60m being spent on the new swimming pool – another great legacy from 2022 – it is interesting to hear people like Mayor Street say there is not enough money to build a velodrome."

Black Country cycling legend Hugh Porter is among those who have called for the West Midlands to have its own velodrome for the competition.

Sir Lenny and the wolf in concert

SIR Lenny Henry will be narrating Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf in a performance at a prestigious West Midlands concert venue next month.

The Dudley-born actor and comedian, who is also Chancellor of Birmingham City University, will join the conductor Christopher Houlding and the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire Pops Orchestra for the concert on May 4. It is at the £57 million Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, run by Birmingham City University.

The date is special for Star Wars fans and music from the hit movies will also feature.

Tickets cost £22 adults and £15 concessions. Visit www.bcu.ac.uk/conservatoire/events-calendar/lenny-henry-peter-and-the-wolf

Appeal to family

THE coroner's office is trying to find family of a man found dead at an address in Dudley. Graham Cooper, 69, was discovered in Butterfield Court, Short Street, on April 9. Contact Wendy Plummer on 0121 569 6990.

Geopark status is goal for new officer

Liz Etheridge – new role

A LIFELONG love of rocks and fossils has led Liz Etheridge to her new role at Dudley's geopark officer as Dudley Council bid for Unesco Global Geopark status for the Black Country.

Having lived in the region most of her life and having studied geology at Birmingham University, Liz has a wealth of knowledge and experience, which she has since developed in roles with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Wychavon District Council.

She will now dedicate her time to addressing the recommendations set out by Unesco and support efforts to gain the geopark international status. She will work with volunteers and Black Country partners to strengthen the connections across all 45 sites which make up the area's proposed geopark.

Liz said: "My love of geology has stemmed from childhood. I was always curious about rocks and where they came from, and when I realised that studying geology would bring together all the things I loved, I knew it was a career I wanted to pursue.

"I've lived in the Black Country almost all my life and I'm passionate about promoting this area's geological heritage and how it has influenced so much of our industry and culture. I knew this was a fantastic opportunity and the perfect job for me and I am thrilled to have the honour of working alongside colleagues, volunteers and the public as we bid for Unesco status.

"Achieving Global Geopark status will make sure that the Black Country's precious geological, industrial and natural heritage sites are protected and respected.

"It's such an exciting time to join the geopark team and I am keen to make sure that we successfully deliver the Unesco recommendations"

Council's camera in cab move to help taxi safety

TAXIS in Dudley could be equipped with CCTV in a bid to protect both drivers and passengers from harm.

Hackney carriages and private hire vehicles would be fitted with cameras under new proposals being considered by Dudley Council's taxi committee today (Thursday).

Plans have been drawn up after taxi drivers approached council bosses with safety concerns. Shaz Saleem, the chairman of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association, has welcomed the proposals but feels Dudley Council has taken too long in addressing the issue.

Mr Saleem said: "We have wanted CCTV for a while. We can't use CCTV at the moment and need the council's permission to do so.

"We were given verbal permission in November but haven't had anything yet in writing.

"We are still talking about CCTV when drivers are getting attacked left, right and centre. How can the council treat drivers like this and why has it taken so long? Taxi drivers face danger and we have been saying it for a while now."

Council bosses look likely to back the plans.

Responsible

They want taxi drivers to install their own equipment and be responsible for the footage. The council would not be responsible for any data breaches, such as the misuse of data, which could prove costly if they were penalised.

Mr Saleem has also backed that proposal but there are different options on the table.

Dudley Council had previously drawn up plans which would see the local authority responsible for all CCTV footage. However, legislation from the European Union is coming into effect next month which will place more responsibility on data holders. This has resulted in Dudley Council opting to give taxi drivers full control of CCTV in their cabs. Legislation will give more power to people to access video of themselves from local authorities.

Councillor Alan Hopwood, chairman of the taxi committee, said: "The committee likes the idea of fitting CCTV optionality in vehicles without council-imposed controls."

Now we're really cooking on gas

Former Goodyear workers Wayne Devaney and Paul Baugh with assistant kitchen supervisor Janette Cottam

IT'S 'ready, steady, cook' at a community hub and cafe which is now able to serve up hot meals thanks to a generous donation.

The Age UK Dudley centre in Ettymore Road, Sedgley has been presented with a new cooker by former Goodyear workers.

The centre aims to combat loneliness by providing a welcoming place for older people to socialise, shop and have a bite to eat.

The commercial cooker,which will allow the charity to provide more hot meals, was funded by the Goodyear workers' 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund.

Staff will now be able to offer a 'reasonably priced' hot meal every day rather than a limited choice of sandwiches and jacket potatoes.

A presentation took place at the centre as staff tried out their new kitchen appliance, which cost £1,475.98, to hand out free bacon rolls and hot drinks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than 380 empty homes

A TOTAL of 387 council-owned homes are empty in Dudley despite hundreds of families struggle to find somewhere to live.

The Dudley figure is higher than Wolverhampton (168), Sandwell (169) and Walsall (90). However, the number of vacant Dudley Council properties is considerably fewer than April last year, when the figure was 617.

Alan Lunt, Dudley's deputy chief executive, said: "The majority of homes owned by Dudley Council that are currently empty are either already allocated to prospective tenants, being advertised, or shortlisting from more than one interested applicant."

April showers to helps charities

A CHARITY shop team is all set to host a fundraising event tomorrow (Friday) in Dudley.

Members of the A.R.C-A.I.D store in Dudley will hold their Little April Showers event at The Royal British Legion club on Ruiton Street in Lower Gornal, at 7.30pm. It costs £6.

The sale of raffle tickets will help raise funds for Mesothelioma UK, the Mick Knighton Mesothelioma Research Fund and Asbestos Support West Midlands. For tickets call (01384) 457879 or in evenings (01384) 442266.

Bus firm profits are just the ticket

BLACK Country-based bus and coach operator Rotala, which includes Diamond Bus, has reported rises in both profits and turnover for its latest financial year.

Adjusted pre-tax profit was up by 20 per cent to £3.22 million on turnover which grew five per cent to £57.9m for the year to the end of November. The Tividale-based business bought three companies during the year to expand operations in the West Midlands, the North West and at Heathrow airport. They included Hansons (Wordsley) for £608,000.

Friends seek help for stall on nature trail

THE Friends of Wren's Nest Nature Reserve will be staffing a refreshments and information stall on the Dudley Borough Trail route.

It will be there for walkers taking part in the event on May 6 at the Wren's Nest beauty spot from 11am to 3.30pm. The group is seeking volunteers.

A new flagpole has been put up, paid for by the friends, to fly the Green Flag awarded to the reserve.

DON'T throw out costly cabinets when you can re-use them!
We Can Replace the Doors
KITCHEN Doors & WORKTOPS
Opening Times
Monday to Friday 10am - 5.30pm
Saturday 10 - 4pm
Closed Sunday

Kitchen Doors for Less!
A Kitchen Makeover using NEW doors costs much less than you think!

We simply rang for a free quote
FREE TRIMS Free Cornice Free Pelmets Free Plinths WORTH upto £400
PLUS Free Hinges WORTH upto £120
'All done in just one day - amazing!'
Mrs E Homer SANDWELL
www.iudk.co.uk.
Next to Sainsburys - Wordsley Green Stourbridge
0800 088 7044
Over 40 Styles & Colours
Add Value to your home with our amazing concept

COUNTY NEWS

Metro numbers 'balancing out'

BOSSES at Midland Metro have said passenger numbers had started to 'balance out', after a drop in January – particularly on weekends.

Sophie Allison, Metro operations manager, said the figures were starting to come back to where they expect at last week's West Midlands Combined Authority's Transport Delivery Committee meeting.

The figures showed that the network saw a nine per cent fall in travelling customers in January 2018, compared to the same month in 2017. Passenger numbers were at 597,326 in January, compared to 653,085 12 months previously.

Homes demand in 7th monthly fall

BUYER demand for housing in the West Midlands continues to fall, new data reveals.

The RICS UK Residential Market survey reports buyer demand has dropped for the seventh consecutive month in the region. It revealed one of the main reasons was a lack of fresh stock coming onto the West Midlands' market, alongside ongoing concerns over affordability as house prices continued to rise.

Average stock levels on estate agents' books remains near an all-time low as the number of houses being put up for sale fell for the 30th consecutive month.

Push the Boat Out and try sailing

SAILORS can test their skills on the water next month. The Royal Yachting Association's Push the Boat Out scheme will allow novices to try sailing and windsurfing for free throughout May.

Events will be held at Himley Hall Sailing Club, Sandwell Valley Sailing Club, Dudley Sailing Club, Aldridge Sailing Club, Walsall's The Chase Sailing Club, South Staffordshire Sailing Club and Penkridge's Greensforge Sailing Club.

Entries invited for canalside exhibition

DUDLEY Canal and Tunnel Trust is holding its second open display of art and photography.

Entries are invited for the exhibition that will be held in the Waterside Gallery at The Portal, Birmingham New Road, from July 16 to September 16. It is open to all ages or abilities for art works in any kind of media as long as they can be wall mounted. The deadline is June 30. See dudleycanaltrust.org.uk/open-exhibition-2018/

Plea for council to act over blue badge

BLUE badge holders are concerned that parking privileges have been lost to many disabled motorists and their family members.

One parent, whose son lost his blue badge after 12 years following a national review of the system, is calling for Dudley Council to act now.

A number of blue badge holders lost out when those who qualified under Disability Living Allowance rules were moved over to the new Personal Independent Payment.

Michael Hands' son Phillip, aged 29, who has severe mental impairment, epilepsy and autism could not renew the badge used to help him under the new rules in December.

A High Court judgement has since ruled against the Government which is in the process of reviewing its guidelines.

When Mr Hands went to Dudley Council to re-apply, he was told he would have to wait until the change was ratified by Parliament.

The retired care manager, of Wordsley, said: "I've studied the guidelines and it clearly states that local councils can decide on a case-by-case basis and they have autonomy to make that decision. We're asking them to be compassionate and let us have the badge back now. Our son is 6ft tall with the mental capacity of a four-year-old and needs someone to hold his hand at all times when he's out."

UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood tried to bring in an immediate temporary renewal. The authority has instead agreed to hold talks.

Mr Hands, 59, added: "Discussion on the issue could take months. In the meantime my son's safety is at risk."

First Doctor Who script up for sale at auction

A PIECE of television history – a copy of the first ever Doctor Who script – is going under the hammer in Dudley.

The stained and slightly battered type-written artefact belonged to actor William Hartnell, the original Time Lord.

It covers the first episode, An Unearthly Child, of the first adventure, Doctor Who and the Tribe of Gum.

The prized memento goes to auction in Dudley as part of a film and music memorabilia sale on May 3, and is estimated to fetch up to £8,000.

Written by Anthony Coburn, it was first broadcast by the BBC on November 23, 1963, and introduced Hartnell as the first Doctor.

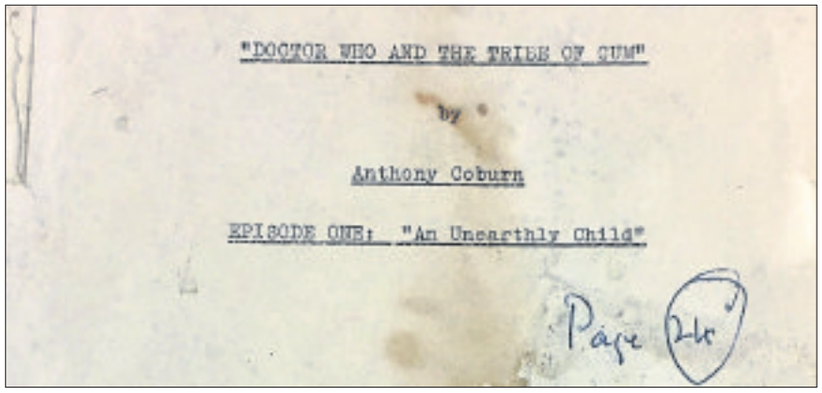
In the first episode, which was screened the day after President Kennedy was assassinated, Carole Ann Ford played the Doctor's young companion, Susan. Her unusual behaviour becomes the focus of concern by two of her schoolteachers, played by Jacqueline Hill and William Russell, who enter a police phone box after hearing Susan's voice. Inside they are amazed to find a large room. The Doctor, fearing they will give away the secret of his time-travelling spacecraft in disguise, takes them to the Stone Age.

The 43-page script, complete with pencil annotations by Hartnell, was discovered by the vendor's grandfather, a builder, while refurbishing Hartnell's flat in East Sussex, and was among items to be thrown out.

Expert Chris Yeo, who inspected the script on TV's Antiques Roadshow, said: "This is the DNA of Doctor Who, the genesis of the programme, it's a very, very important thing."

The thirteenth Doctor made her debut in the closing moments of Twice Upon a Time, the 2017 Christmas special, when the public got their first glimpse of Jodie Whittaker, the first female incarnation of the iconic sci-fi character.

The script will be sold at Aston's Auctioneer's at Baylies Hall in Tower Street.



"DOCTOR WHO AND THE TRIBE OF GUM"

by

Anthony Coburn

EPISODE ONE: "An Unearthly Child"

Page 2k

A piece of TV history – the title page of the script for the first ever episode of Doctor Who

The first Doctor Who, William Hartnell, in 1963

Stars Jacqueline Hill, Carole Ann Ford and William Russell

Merry Hill Carpetright store marked for closure

STRUGGLING retailer Carpetright is closing its branch at the Merry Hill shopping centre amid plans to axe hundreds of jobs across the country.

The firm has unveiled plans to shut 81 shops – including the Merry Hill shop – under a sweeping restructure that will see 300 job roles lost.

Neighbouring stores in Oldbury and Wolverhampton are not affected. The chain said 92 sites had been earmarked for closure from the end of September, although 11 have already stopped trading.

Rent on another 113 is set to be cut under proposals being put to landlords. It said it hopes to relocate staff where possible.

The group – which employs nearly 2,700 staff in total at 409 sites – also confirmed an investor cash-call to raise around £60 million through a rights issue to put the company on a firmer financial footing.

The details came as it revealed a 'technical breach' of its banking arrangements.

Carpetright chief Wilf Walsh said: "These tough but necessary actions will enable us to address the burden of a legacy UK property estate consisting of too many poorly located stores on unsustainable rents, and are essential if we are to restore our profitability and deliver a successful turnaround. We will remain in close contact with all colleagues to keep them fully informed as we move through this process."

Carpetright said planned closures would not affect customers, with all orders to be fulfilled.

More than 7,000 vaccinations boost

MORE than 7,000 tetanus vaccines have been donated to Unicef from local NHS trusts to help save the lives of thousands of children.

Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust pledged to donate 10 life-saving tetanus vaccinations for every single flu vaccine given to staff who work there.

More than 70 per cent of frontline healthcare staff at the trust got their flu jab this year after they were encouraged to do so to protect themselves and their patients from flu, but also to help save the lives of children around the world who will benefit from receiving essential tetanus vaccinations.

Mark Axcell, chief executive officer, said getting the flu had not only protected staff and those around them but many young children without access to healthcare.

TimberTim Ltd
Professional Tree Surgeon
Established in 2002, Timber Tim Ltd is a Professional Tree Surgeon based in the West Midlands and dedicated to providing the highest levels of tree services, customer care and satisfaction for a variety of individuals and organisations in the West Midlands.
We specialise in the following
Trees Felled, Dismantled & Reduced
Stump Grinding
Storm Damage Repair
24-Hour Callout Service
Local Authority Contracts
Site Clearances
Free No Obligation Quotes
Fully Insured
Mobile: 07970 618 998
Tel: 01384 594 270
Web: www.timbertim.co.uk Email: tim@timbertim.co.uk

GASWAY LTD
Est 1976
Gas Safe Register
Open since 1976 Gasway has been your first choice for Gas Fires, Surrounds, Cookers and much more, all at competitive prices.
Why not visit Dave, Jon and the team today for FREE expert advice and quotes.
• Cookers Supplied and Fitted
• Gas Fires and Fire Surrounds
• Electric Fires and Fire suites
• Servicing Spare Parts
• Central Heating Systems Supplied and Fitted
• Fire Guards / Companion Sets
▶ Free standing gas stoves
▶ Natural gas or lpg
▶ Can be fitted into class 1, class 2 and pre cast flues
▶ Flue and venting options
▶ Manual control with integral ignition
▶ Log fuel bed
▶ Up to 78% efficient
▶ 3.6k output
For complete peace of mind and a friendly service, why not visit Gasway in Lower High Street, Stourbridge DY8 1TA. 01384 372246

Halesowen Fireplaces
AT THE HEART OF YOUR HOME
Complete Fireplace Packages from £499
(including fire)
360° VIRTUAL TOUR NOW ON WEBSITE
For a range of Gas and Electric Fires and Surrounds visit our showroom (opposite Tyre City on Long Lane)
Telephone 0121 559 9985
Like us on: facebook.
Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD
www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk

Geoff Hill Ltd
GAS AND ELECTRICAL SUPERSTORE
CALLING ALL COOKAHOLICS
LIVE COOKING EVENT
Fabulous Fine Food
21st April
10:30am till 3:30pm
GET AN EXTRA -15% off on the day*
High Street, Amblecote, DY5 4DE
01384 395852

House lease proposal is key part of heritage bid

AN HISTORIC Black Country house dating back over a century could be leased out as part of a £1.5 million revamp to a park, under proposals.

Tintern House in Stevens Park, Quarry Bank, will be leased out to the Emily Jordan Foundation, under plans being considered by Dudley Council this week.

A decision will be made by the council's Ernest Stevens Trusts Management Committee.

Councillor David Sparks, who is chairman of Stevens Park Friends Group, said: "We are in the process of finalising a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funds to refurbish the house and park. This is part of the process.

"With the council the foundation from Kidderminster and the friends of the park of Quarry Bank Park will be putting forward a final bid later in the year.

"Tintern House will be used by the council , the foundation and the community and this is a fantastic asset to the park and Quarry Bank.

"It is one of the oldest buildings in Quarry Bank and certainly in the area," he added. "The park was opened in the 1920s and the building was there before then."

The house will be leased out as part of the Stevens Park, Quarry Bank Restoration Project. Campaigners are lining up a bid to the HLF in August.

Local history on internet project

AN archives group is looking to gather the history of Sedgley and Gornal together in one place on the web so it can be accessed by historians across the globe.

The Sedgley Archives Project will launch a website in a bid to make historical maps, photos, documents and press cuttings available to the public.

It will also see audio interviews about shops archived and accessible.

A meeting of the group will take place to discuss the project at Cafe Cappella in Gospel End Street, Sedgley, on May 28 at 11am.

Martin Jones, project co-ordinator, said the aim was to enable people to upload items of interest about the area wherever they happened to live.

Culture Club gig

BOY George and Culture Club will play in Birmingham as part of a comeback tour. The iconic 80s band best known for Karma Chameleon and Do You Really Want To Hurt Me will play Arena Birmingham on November 16.

Firm first to benefit from 'engine' fund

Direct Digital Controls directors Ian Lamb, Bob Horton and Bob Taylor

A FIRM in the Black Country has become one of the first to benefit from a £250 million investment fund for Midlands businesses.

The Midlands Engine Investment Fund (MEIF) was launched last month to give small and medium-sized companies greater access to vital finance so they can grow and create jobs.

Building energy and environmental control firm Direct Digital Controls, of Brierley Hill, is one of the first businesses to receive finance from the fund.

It won help expand its wired and lighting control division. Direct Digital Controls previously sub-contacted this work and the funding has enabled it to set up its own division by taking on four new employees and also training an apprentice.

The small business loans investment from MEIF will help the company specialise in a number of key business sectors.

Direct Digital Controls plans and fits its customers' buildings with environmentally friendly and cost-efficient energy systems. Alongside this, the firm offers a monitoring service that ensures its customers' systems keep operating at peak efficiency.

Turned down by traditional lenders, the company secured a packaging of funding through MEIF that has been delivered by the fund's West Midlands small business loans fund manager, Wolverhampton-based BCRS Business Loans. Bob Taylor, director at Direct Digital Controls, said: "Securing finance from BCRS Business Loans and the Midlands Engine Investment Fund is a pivotal step in the future of our business growth."

Cabinet minister praises money-making council

MICHAEL Gove urged local authorities to adopt a 'money-making' approach to their operations during his whistle-stop tour of the Black Country.

The Environment Secretary said that by becoming more business-like, councils could raise the funds required to enable them to provide a high level of public services while also keeping council tax down.

The leading Brexiteer also poured scorn on claims Britain's environment would suffer after it leaves the European Union, insisting that 'green' levels would be 'enhanced and protected'.

Mr Gove visited Dudley Council's Lister Road Depot, which employs 450 staff in environmental services including street cleansing, bin collections and lighting.

The Conservative-led authority is exploring ways to make the centre commercially viable, and also offers an MOT service there.

Impressed

"I've been impressed by everything I have seen here and it reflects incredibly well on the council staff," said Mr Gove, who spent time chatting with workers and bosses during a tour of the sprawling site.

"You have an entrepreneurial council that as well as producing a high-quality service in terms of waste disposal and traffic management and road repairs, is also earning money by providing, for example, MOT services.

"I think that combination of a high level of public services and a business-like, money-making approach to making sure residents can be served better helps to keep council tax down and also helps to maintain the high quality of services that taxpayers have a right to expect."

Mr Gove also responded to concerns raised by Labour that leaving the EU could damage Britain's environment as the nation ditches EU regulations.

He said: "Outside the EU we are going to make sure that our environment is enhanced and protected. We believe in a greener Britain."

Mr Gove visited the site with Dudley Council leader Councillor Patrick Harley, Councillor Karen Shakespeare and Tory candidate for the upcoming election in St Thomas' ward, Jonathan Elliott.

Michael Gove looked at recycling facilities during his visit to Dudley Council's Lister Road Depot

Nine fewer shops in town centre

DUDLEY town centre ended 2017 with nine fewer shops than at the beginning of the year, according to a new study.

Research by the Local Data Company for PwC has found four shops opened up in the town centre in 2017 but 13 closed.

That was the worst performance of any town centres in the Black Country.

Stourbridge had no shops open and three close, Wolverhampton ended 2017 with two fewer shops that it started with.

Councillor Ken Finch said: "It is a disappointment for any area when shops are closing, but Dudley is not unique in this. As a council we're trying our best to get established businesses to come here, but it's very difficult.

"I honestly think with the Midland Metro extension coming and all the tourist attractions we've got, things will improve.

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than 20 are caught speeding

A TOTAL of 21 drivers were caught speeding during a police operation in Dudley.

The motorists were caught on Tuesday, April 10, exceeding the speed limit on Gospel End Road in Sedgley, which has a 30mph limit.

Wombourne Police tweeted: "Speed checks carried out Gospel End Road this afternoon. A massive 21 x drivers exceeding the limit by 5mph or more. Highest recorded speed 41mph. All due to receive a letter in the post.

"A shame one vehicle decided to drive past shouting abuse. We will decline your kind advice to 'get a real job'."

Set out stall for under-5s' big day

STALLHOLDERS have been encouraged to take part in an annual under-5s day later this summer.

The popular Dudley Council event will be held at Himley Hall and Park on June 29. It features activities and entertainment for children under the age of five, and regularly attracts more than 4,000 visitors.

Organisations and businesses offering products relating to children such as toys, clothing and information stalls can apply for a stand, visit www.himleyhall andpark.co.uk/under5s or email jacki.wynn@dudley.gov.uk

Bowls club to host open day

A BOWLS club is hosting its annual open day this weekend at a Stourbridge park.

Crystal Bowls is hosting the event on Saturday at Wollescote Park.

The green in Wollescote Road will be open from 11am to 4pm. Visitors are welcome to have a go, so long as they are wearing flat shoes or trainers. Refreshments will be provided for guests on the day and people of all ages are welcome to try the game.

For further details on the open day or on the bowls club contact the club on (01384) 371106.

Puppet theatre stage story of Snow White

A TOURING puppet theatre company will be bringing Snow White to an arts centre in the Black Country. Angel Heart Theatre will present their show at Glasshouse Arts Centre in Amblecote. The performance,which has been selected by students at the Glasshouse College as part of Black Country Touring's Young Promoter Scheme, is at 5pm tomorrow (Friday). Tickets cost £6 and admission is free for under-fives. Call (01384) 399433.

ADVERTISEMENT

Has Your Double Glazing Steamed Up?

Established for over a decade Cloudy2Clear windows have become a leading company for glass replacement. Issues with double glazing can often be gradual and may only be noticed during a clear sunny day or during the winter. A failed glass unit may no longer provide you with the protection you need or be energy efficient. Why not spend a few minutes checking your home to see if you have any failed double glazing?
If you act now you can avoid these problems.

Now, you may think you need to replace the whole window including the frames and all the hardware, however Cloudy2Clear have come up with a simple and cost saving solution… Just replace the glass!!

If you see condensation in your windows just visit our website or give us a call on **0800 61 21 118**. We will send out our highly experienced engineers for a free no obligation quote. **A Cloudy2Clear quote takes on average no longer than 20 minutes**. Once the quote is completed, we will sit down with you and explain the problem and tell you how we can fix it. With years of experience Cloudy2Clear have a wealth of knowledge and are recognised as a Which Trusted Trader, **plus our work is backed by an industry leading 25 year guarantee**. Cloudy2Clear also replace faulty locks handles and hinges on all windows and doors.

Your friendly local Cloudy2Clear specialist is Brian Stanley and he services Stourbridge & the surrounding areas.

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on **0800 61 21 118**.

Cloudy2Clear Windows... Service With A Smile!
Cloudy2Clear Are A... Which? Trusted Trader
All Glazing Backed By Our 25 YEAR GUARANTEE
Priority Freephone 0800 61 21 118
www.cloudy2clear.com
Broken Or Damaged Windows? Faulty Locks, Handles, Hinges?

IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Sour note as speed bumps go musical

NOW this is what you call traffic management. In an attempt to get motorists to stick to the speed limit, local bigwigs representing Jelsum in the Netherlands had the bright idea of installing musical rumble strips along the road into the village.

When cars drive over the strips at the correct speed of 40mph, sensors in the road activate chimes which reward the driver by playing the Friesland provincial anthem. You don't think they had been smoking anything unusual before the meeting, do you?

Still, it sounds a sight more fun than the infuriating speed humps, barriers, chicanes and white paint we get in this country. However, it does not seem to be music to the ears of residents, who complained of being kept awake by the continuous droning which travels right the way through the village.

One resident complained of artistic taxi drivers going back and forth all night at varying speeds to produce their own arrangements.

"Last Saturday night the taxis were driving from Leeuwarden to Stiens and on the way back, they tried to go across the lines as quickly as possible and we had the anthem playing all night at high speed," said one.

Some people will complain about anything, won't they? They ought to try living along some of our country lanes, where drivers crash over the massive potholes day and night. Not nearly so tuneful.

❒❒❒

AFTER years in the wilderness, it looks like the Black Country could soon be back on the national railway map. Well sort of. Seven new stations are being considered for the West Midlands, including the reopening of Darlaston and Willenhall stations. This sounds like great news.

I do worry about plans for a new service linking Wolverhampton to the Merry Hill shopping centre, though, with no mention whatsoever of a stop at Dudley along the way. Town centres have it tough enough as it is, without giving Wulfrunians an easy route to an out-of-town shopping centre. I fear that can only suck more life out of the city. And if you are going to create this service, why wouldn't you have a station in Dudley, next to the zoo, Black Country Museum and, dare we say it, the Hippodrome theatre? So much for creating a major tourist zone.

Interestingly, while Dudley Zoo appears to have been overlooked, rail chiefs are keen to provide a service to West Midland Safari Park. So, you get off the train, pay your admission, and walk straight into the lion enclosure. Remind me to bring my camcorder.

'Men deserts' – where young boys lack role models

Eric Bristow – achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away

Peter Kay – no leak on what was the unforeseen family circumstances

David Lammy – Tottenham MP, was understandably emotional over death toll rise

Rising death toll and the absent fathers

AS the death toll rises on London's streets, the commonest cry is "Where are you?" David Lammy, the black MP for Tottenham, was understandably emotional as he yelled: "Why is there a political vacuum? Where is the Prime Minister? Where is the Home Secretary? Where is Sadiq Khan?" A street demo took up the cry for the guilty missing: "Where are the police, where are the pastors?" And yet no-one shouted the most crucial question of all. Where are the fathers?

TIME after time, academic studies of gang culture in black communities highlight the huge numbers of absent fathers. Some neighbourhoods are dubbed "men deserts" because most households are run by a woman and young black boys have no role models in the home. David Lammy knows all about it; his own father walked out on the family and fled to America. Why are politicians so reluctant to mention this issue? Probably because they are instantly howled down and accused of attacking, undermining and disrespecting single mothers. But as Lammy wrote in the Daily Telegraph six years ago: "Many single mothers do a heroic job looking after their families . . . but it becomes twice as hard to set boundaries with half the number of parents." And while more cops, more pastors and more interest from politicians might help London's agony, it is hard to see any end to the carnage when so many dads are missing and no-one is setting any boundaries.

I WROTE recently ago about my Saturday job as a 15-year-old mechanic's mate. Jim the mechanic taught me a lesson which has stood me in good stead. It is this: if you dismantle something and then reassemble it, there will always be a few bits left over. I hope this brings some

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

comfort to those of you who, as spring arrives, have been trying to fix the lawnmower.

I THOUGHT the public sector was being educated to address people correctly. A reader tells me he has a relative in hospital in East Anglia. Every time he telephones the place he is greeted with "Allo, moi luvverly."

YOU may think we live in a world where the all-prying internet lays bare all our deepest secrets. Is nothing confidential any more? And then you think of Peter Kay, currently launching the third and final series of Car Share. In December last year Kay suddenly announced: "Due to unforeseen family circumstances, I deeply regret that I am having to cancel all of my upcoming work projects." And from that day to this no-one has discovered what the unforeseen family circumstances were. Not a leak, not a peep. Extraordinary.

TALKING of which, here's a new advert: It's the deadliest nerve agent ever invented! It penetrates the latest protective suits! A single drop can kill an entire army in seconds! Especially effective against old Russians and their daughters! Novichok - it doesn't do exactly what it says on the tin.

THE Salisbury incident is turning into a sort of test of patriotism. If you believe the official government line, then you are a good egg. If you happen to think, like Mr Corbyn and me, that the speculation and accusations should not have raced ahead of the hard evidence, you are a 'useful idiot' doing the Kremlin's work. I am expecting a sackful of roubles any day now.

A SURVEY by a mineral-water company suggests mosts Brits are stuck in a Groundhog Day existence, endlessly repeating the same conversations, same breakfasts, same dinner, same holiday destinations, same advice to children, and so on. But what has any of this to do with bottled water? A spokeswoman for the company declares: "We're all naturally driven to make the most of every day and being properly hydrated helps us get there." Advertising – same old cobblers.

ERIC Bristow has died far too soon but the darts legend may have achieved an unexpected immortality 8,000 miles away. In the Falkland Islands, the helicopters used by civilians and UK military in the years after the 1982 war were provided by the aviation company Bristow. Inevitably, the squaddies called the helicopters Erics and, all these years later, the term is still in use.

JEREMY Clarkson tells the story of a lad who was horrified to find so many deductions from his first wage packet. It was explained that this money was taken to pay for hospital, schools and so on. The boy accepted it stoically. But the next week, when his second wage packet arrived, he rang home in despair: "Mum - they've done it again."

MICE have reappeared in our house, the garden is full of rabbits, a pheasant has built a nest under one window and the other night a rat wandered across the yard. What has changed? It is six weeks since our old tabby cat died.

TALKING POINT

Response to the bad weather is – panic!

WITH temperatures creeping up, daffodils out and a promise that spring might actually be here, it is time to reflect on this miserable wintertime.

Snow, wind, rain, floods we have had it all. So what have we learnt during these bleak winter days? Personally, I have discovered the following 10 things:

1 There is a Beast of the East. He has rarely troubled us in the past but after the first rampage he got a taste for mayhem and misery and decided to come back and the mini beasts were also fearsome.

2 There are different kinds of snow. Apparently you can have 3ft of snow in the back garden but may not be able to build a decent snowman. Snow from the east seems to be very fine.

3 Our country is no longer equipped to deal with rain or thawing snow. Any persistent rain will lead to flood alerts and sewage floating into someone's back garden.

4 Britain's roads are in no state to handle bad weather. Whatever the weather may bring over winter we can be sure that we will be left with roads resembling the surface of the Moon. And there is nothing a pothole loves more than a puddle to hide in.

5 Despite snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one arrogant motorist who will drive at the speed limit – at a minimum – because a bit of bad weather isn't going to stop them. This persists even if it means they are driving so close that they are forcing you out of the narrow snow tracks while they overtake, or your car is drowned as they steam through flood waters.

6 In snow, black ice or flood water there will always be one terrified driver who should not have left the house and is clutching the steering wheel in fear, barely clocking up 10mph. This means you are struggling to maintain a braking distance and are forced out of the narrow snow tracks or into a deeper part of the puddle to overtake.

7 It does not actually have to snow for schools to shut, the mere threat is enough for the circulation of 'school closure' texts. And don't assume just because the teachers have made it in that your children will be allowed to stay in school.

8 The slightest incline that you have never even noticed before becomes equivalent to the Eiger for any HGVs or buses when covered in snow/ice.

9 HGVs and buses should not go out when roads are covered in snow and particularly not in hilly Staffordshire

10 However much warning we are given there will only ever be one response from us Brits - panic!

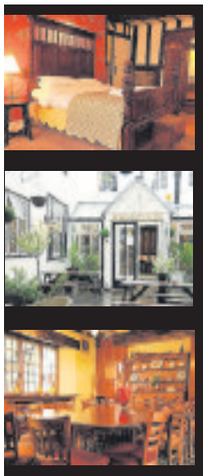
DIANE DAVIES

High Street, Brierley Hill
HOME OF THE KARNDEAN CLOCK
CARPET FACTORY OUTLETS

SALE PRICES
ON ALL CARPETS

Karndean Designflooring
DEDICATED SHOWROOM

New Displays, Huge Choice, Helpful Staff
01384 263149



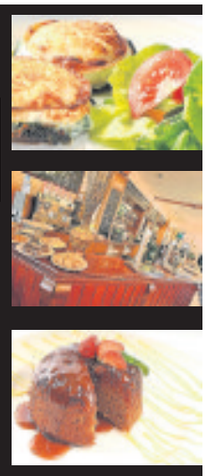
THE TALBOT HOTEL
STOURBRIDGE

Tapas Friday and Saturday nights
from 6.00pm-9.30pm
Live Music Every Saturday
8.00pm-12.00 midnight

This 3-star hotel's attractive original structure dates back to the 1630s. Inside, the comfortable accommodation has beautiful original features and period charm that makes for a pleasant and fascinating stay. The building's attractive period features include old oak beams, stuccoed ceilings, a half-timbered black and white rear facade and old bells, which were used to call the servants.

All of the rooms are unique and individually decorated and furnished. Each is comfortable and well equipped with all the modern comforts and facilities you need for business or pleasure. The hotel can cater for any type of function for up to 160 guests, such as wedding receptions, training sessions and conferences.

Now Licenced for Civil Weddings and Ceremonies



The Talbot Hotel, High Street, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY8 1DW
T: 01384 394350 F: 01384 371318 E: info@thetalbot-hotel.co.uk
WWW.THETALBOT-HOTEL.CO.UK

Why destroy 'our' Dudley Hippodrome?

I WOULD like to know why Dudley Council (the self-proclaimed historical capital of the Black Country) want to pull down, to destroy and demolish our Dudley Hippodrome.

It really makes no sense at all and I have never had an answer as to why they intend to do it.

Our Dudley Hippodrome is the last remaining lyric theatre designed by the renowned Archibald Hurley Robinson who drew up the plans and commissioned local suppliers and contractors wherever possible.

Baggeridge bricks were used on the massive walls of the building. It was built to hold more than 1,700 patrons and to this day the acoustics and theatrical feel it has inside is quite breathtaking and wonderful.

Sadly none of the Dudley councillors have ever been inside.

I am a member of Dudley Hippodrome Community Group and we are continuing to fight against the destruction of our Dudley Hippodrome and are determined to find out why the land that it occupies is needed. What for and for how long has Dudley Council had these plans in view?

This issue is causing concern as we like our council to be open and transparent.

At our local community forum in Kingswinford, I was prevented from bringing up anything on our Dudley Hippodrome as it was a 'Dudley' matter. What is the council afraid of? What haven't we been told and why?

Hoping that this letter may shed some light on the matter and that our local paper can take an interest in this very important decision.

MARLENE WATSON
Wall Heath

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL
dudley.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice:
Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can.
The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at www.ipso.co.uk.
If you are unhappy with the accuracy of a story, write to The Editor, Chronicles, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

ipso. For press freedom with responsibility

If we cannot reach a resolution contact Ipso at complaints@ipso.co.uk or by post at Ipso, c/o Gate House, 1 Farringdon Street, London, EC4M 7LG

It took MPs 30 years to catch on

IT'S so nice to see that our MPs are keeping their eye on the ball, not much is getting past them.

When they see a problem they react and demand change, they always put their constituents first, if they see a wrong they make it right.

Now they have discovered that petrol stations are ripping us off at motorway service areas.

Can I just say that any motorist could have told these MPs the same thing anytime in the last 30 to 40 years!

I can't believe how quick they are.

Just in case another 30 to 40 years go by can I also tell them we are being ripped off over council tax, electric, gas and water bills, train fares, car tax, car and home insurance, interest rates, food, HS2, to name but a few.

But Well done for spotting the petrol price.

PETE LOWE
Brierley Hill

Focus on the causes of drug addiction

COUNCILLOR Harley's simplistic reason for the rise in drug addiction in Dudley rests upon his argument that 'hard drugs are becoming socially acceptable'. He concludes that the only way to eradicate the problem is a war on drugs.

Drug abuse has a complexity of causes. Signalling out one feature in any individual is unhelpful. Attention has to focus on factors such as a history of mental illness, stress, having a poor social and economic background, experimenting with drugs and poor parental supervision.

To ignore the causes is to ignore how the problem can rationally be dealt with.

EDWARD DAVIES
Stourbridge

Region's rail policy 'stupidity'

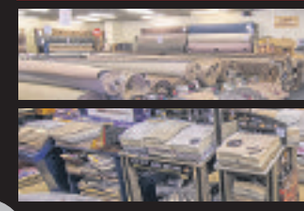
HOW is it that patriotic, flag waving Great Brexit Britain is buying foreign built 'bus on rails' trams – at ten times the price of a double decker bus – to wreck any possibility of our British built hydrogen-electric trains completing the 120km Black Country railway? This means slow, frequent stopping trams preventing forever the train that, last year, we sold to Germany – 14 British hydrogen electric trains are now in use in Lower Saxony.

Turning a 120km railway 'of national strategic significance' (Network Rail/DfT) into a piddling little tram line of 6.7km is the ultimate stupidity. Because of devolution, it seems central Government are powerless to stop the idiocy of the W Mids Combined Authority, the incompetence of Mayor Andy Street and his transport lead, Cllr Roger Lawrence. Both should go – now.

TIM WELLER
Halesowen

ONE OF THE LARGEST STOCKISTS OF CARPET IN THE COUNTRY
Over 200 Part Rolls
ALL LESS 50%
At STD we have the best fitters and we are NEVER undercut on price

SALE NOW ON



	Was sq yd	Now sq yd
Apollo	£9.95	£7.95
Majesty bleach cleanable	£13.95	£9.95
Sensations Heathers	£16.95	£12.95
Waterproof bathroom carpet	£18.95	£8.36
Contract wilton	£18.95	£8.95

Plus many more great offers

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK
9.00 to 5.30;
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00;
Closed Wednesdays

10% OFF
All end rolls with this voucher

Open 6 days a week 9.00 to 5.30
Sunday 10.30 to 4.00 Closed Wednesdays
Church Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3PT
TELEPHONE:
01384 76448
www.stdcarpets.com

STD carpets

BRIERLEY HILL
CHURCH ST A459 BRETTELL LANE
K'FORD S'BRIDGE

CONTEMPORARY & ELEGANT
Bi-fold doors
Fitted Aluminium or uPVC
From £1800 fitted

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY

Full Range of the Latest Composite Doors

From £550 fitted

ENTERPRISE GLASS & GLAZING Ltd
of Brierley Hill

Enterprise Glass and Glazing Ltd are based in the Brierley Hill area of the West Midlands and since the early 1980's have built a reputation as a leading installer of quality windows, conservatories and doors direct to the public.

MISTED UNITS?
Replacements,
Glass cut to size...
Telephone today
Free Quotation
01384 571217

Design & Service You Can Trust!

Find us at: Vine Street, Brierley Hill DY5 1JE Telephone: 01384 571217 and talk to us today
Fax: 01384 571427 Email: sales@enterpriseglazing.co.uk www.enterpriseglazing.co.uk

Spring SPECIALS

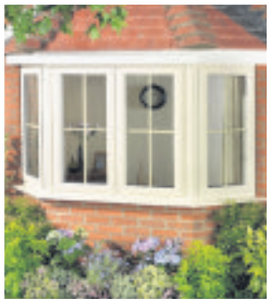
- Top Quality A Rated Products At Great Prices
- Yale Locking Systems
- Swish Window & Door Systems
- Payment On Completion
- Full 10 Year Guarantee
- No Deposit Required

Call us NOW

Make the right choice for your new windows, conservatories, orangeries and porches.

Carera do not use high pressure salesmen, it has had the same owner since it opened in 1989.
Call them now for your **FREE** no obligation quotations. Our visit takes approximately 20-30 minutes

Visit our large beautiful showroom with all products on display for a warm welcome



Proud to have worked with

WINDOWS · DOORS · PORCHES · ORANGERIES · CONSERVATORIES

CARERA WINDOWS LTD
The Recommended Company

24, Junction Rd, Audnam, Stourbridge DY8 4YJ
Telephone: **01384 442 490**
www.carerawindows.co.uk

Yale

FENSA Registered Company

Secured by Design

Boiler work leaves steam fans chuffed

The boiler for the Locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall has been sent to Stockton for a major overhaul thanks to fundraising

A LOCOMOTIVE boiler is being given a major overhaul in an effort to get it back to working order by summer 2019.

The boiler for Locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall has been sent to Northern Steam Engineering in Stockton. It is part of work to get the Great Western Railway locomotive back to steam and back on track on the Severn Valley Railway.

The work has been made possible by the Friends of Locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall, in association with the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust.

Paul Hobson, spokesman for the friends group, said: "We would like to acknowledge the financial support we have received both from the Heritage Lottery Fund and from our loyal group of 4,930 supporters in anticipation of a return to active service of the SVR's former flagship locomotive."

Driver crashed evading police

A YOUNG driver raced away at high speed from police after officers spotted him struggling to peer over the steering wheel, a court heard.

Zafron Davidson claimed he 'panicked' when officers saw him driving his friend's Renault Megane and decided to flee. But the 19-year-old was finally caught after he crashed into another car when he sped through a red light.

The provisional licence holder came before Judge Simon Ward, who said he would take an 'exceptional' course by not sending the defendant to jail.

Sentencing Davidson at Wolverhampton Crown Court the judge added: "What you did was extremely serious. Police saw you driving and they noticed that you were hardly able to see over the top of the steering wheel.

"They wanted you to stop and you didn't. You were driving a friend's car – you knew you weren't meant to be and your friends didn't want you to stop. You drove off, frankly at grossly excessive speeds, through the Black Country."

Davidson, of Gibbs Road, Lye, admitted dangerous driving, driving without insurance and driving otherwise in accordance with a licence. He was handed a nine-month sentence, suspended for one year, along with an electronically-tagged curfew and a two-year driving ban.

Davidson was spotted driving the vehicle, with two male passengers, at about 2pm on June 6, 2016. But he was brought to a halt when he smashed into a Fiat Punto.

HagleyKitchens

Beautiful Kitchens, Bathrooms and Bedrooms, designed with imagination and fitted with care

"A really handsome Kitchen...

...beautiful Bosch appliances and a super 'Boiling-water Tap' completed on time without any problems at all" Pauline Burgess, *Droitwich*

"Hagley Kitchens took care of everything in our fantastically designed modern kitchen... ...Graham and his team made everything simple." **Pam & Steve Hughes, *Rowley Regis***

"Graham gave us our perfect kitchen, a great local company." **Danni & Martin Walters, *Hasbury***

"Hagley Kitchens created the kitchen we have always dreamed of, and his team completed the installation and tiling to a perfect finish... Thank You." **Wayne & Julie, *Wordsley***

"Nothing was too much trouble" **Doreen Coley - *Hayley Green***

Black Country Made

over 40 Years of Happy Customers

Call Graham Edmonds for your 'FREE', no obligation new Hagley Kitchen's design

07776 207596

Guaranteed unbeatable on price

www.HagleyKitchens.co.uk

INSTALLATION • TILING • GAS • ELECTRIC • PLUMBING • BUILDING

Make the RIGHT decision this Spring and give RYDALE a ring...

RYDALE UNIQUE LIFETIME GUARANTEE

RYDALE SPRING SALE

Valeting Services now available to restore all your uPVC products. Guttering and Driveways valeting available.

Windows, Doors, Conservatories, Orangeries, Porches, Fascias and Soffit Boards

Order a conservatory or full house of windows and you will get a full valeting service on your guttering or windows or conservatory totally FREE.

No deposits or stage payments, you only pay when the installation has been completed

Visit one of the largest conservatory and window shrowrooms in the UK

Supplied & Fitted... across the Midlands

Repair Service Available

CELEBRATING Our 33rd ANNIVERSARY 2018

Guardian Warm Roof

Replace the existing roof on your conservatory and create a comfortable environment and a room you can use all year round

Every window and conservatory is custom made to the most rigorous quality standards you will find in the industry. No other company in the area has more experience and know how than Rydale, and that's why we have been in business for more than 30 years.

Supply only Available to the trade on all our products

ULTIMATE SECURITY GUARANTEE

Rydale take security very seriously Guaranteed high security on ALL products

Full details on request

MASSIVE DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE ON MAY INSTALLATIONS

FREEPHONE 0800 917 6060 www.rydalewindows.co.uk Long Lane, Blackheath, Halesowen B62 9LS

Open Weekdays: 9am to 5.30pm Saturday: 9am to 4pm Sunday Closed

Mayor calls for green energy initiative to boost business

A MULTI-MILLION pound green energy zone that will lower household bills and boost businesses has been proposed for the Black Country.

A report has called for four Energy Innovation Zones (EIZs) in the West Midlands, with sites at Dudley, Darlaston and Wolverhampton under consideration.

The zones will be tasked with providing a cheaper and plentiful power supply for industry and homes, and cutting air pollution. The development of new energy supplies has been described as 'crucial' by West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, who is pushing for Government funding to get EIZs off the ground.

He says that the region will eventually become reliant on green energy to stave off capacity problems, and needs its own sources to enable businesses to flourish.

Revolution

The Energy Innovation Commission's report, which was headed by former Government chief scientific advisor Sir David King, said the West Midlands was at the forefront of the modern energy revolution.

Mr Street said: "The commission has done a brilliant job in putting together a detailed and thorough report. The whole issue of energy will become of great significance as we go forward.

"For manufacturers in the West Midlands, the cost of energy is important, and given our dependence as a region on manufacturers, this becomes critical. There is no escaping the fact that some manufacturing investments in the region are dependant on a new supply of energy. It is a current constraint and therefore really does matter."

Recruit will be dedicated to the Edge

A VACANCY has arisen for someone to become closely involved with a popular tourist attraction and help advise the National Trust on its upkeep.

The Kinver Edge committee is looking for a new member, who must be committed to Kinver Edge and be happy to become part of a friendly and dedicated team.

Whoever applies for the vacant seat will need to seek the best for the future of the area, which provides stunning views over the Black Country and the Shropshire Hills.

The committee meets up to five times a year and anyone wanting to apply is asked to write to John Sharkey, Kinver Edge Committee Secretary, at 47 Harvine Walk, Norton, Stourbridge. The committee works alongside custodians of the famous rock houses, the National Trust.

Firm's £10,000 donation to hospital

Eloise Davidson, of Birmingham Children's Hospital, with Mary Mocklow and Ian Bond, of Talbots Law

STAFF from a leading Black Country law firm have pledged their support to help Birmingham Children's Hospital carry out its life-saving care.

Talbots Law named the UK's leading specialist paediatric centre as its 'Charity of the Year' and has already presented it with a £10,000 donation to help it deliver treatments, complex surgical procedures and cutting-edge research to young people up to the age of 16.

Employees from across the company's seven offices were invited to nominate their preferred good causes and, following much deliberation, the three most popular choices were put forward for a final vote that was made at the business' annual party.

Talbots has offices in Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen, Kidderminster, Stourport, Wolverhampton and Codsall.

Mary Mocklow, chief executive of Talbots Law, said: "There was a lot of personal stories of families and friends that have been helped and supported by Birmingham Children's Hospital.

"We always kick-start the year of fundraising by donating an initial sum and then we hope to build on this through a host of different activities that will be organised by the firm and our employees. The emphasis is on getting as many people involved as possible."

Sir Lenny urges support for petition

DUDLEY-BORN actor and comedian Sir Lenny Henry is urging people to sign a petition for an immigration amnesty for those who arrived in Britain decades ago.

Known as the of the 'Windrush Generation', settlers from Caribbean Commonwealth nations were invited to live and work in the UK as British subjects following the Second World War to help address labour shortages and help rebuild war-damaged Britain. But an anomaly in the law means many who arrived in the 1950s and 1960s were never formally naturalised.

Thousands have suffered immigration problems and many are being denied health services or prevented from working despite having lived in the UK their whole adult life.

Sir Lenny has tweeted his support for the petition.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, has also signed the petition calling for an amnesty for those who arrived as minors before 1971.

He has been joined by the Bishop of Shrewsbury, the Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Bishop of Stafford, and the chairman of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church. See petition.parliament.uk/petitions/216539

Rock and pop choir sing at town hall

DYNAMICS Rock and Pop Choir returns to the stage in Dudley on June 6. The Dynamics Decades concert in Dudley Town Hall is to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust. The choir will be joined by Tipton Treblemakers and a live band for the event. Tickets are £10 and can be bought through the choir's Facebook page.

ADVERTISEMENT

They said they'd restore my smile, but gave me back My Life

John Clews enjoying a fresh out-look on life

Level Access
Offroad Parking
Wheelchair Friendly
Find us on FACEBOOK

Predictably *reassuring*

WITH a memorable manly handshake, John Clews exudes a quiet, deep-seated confidence.

Articulate, transparent and at times philosophical, he's sharply focussed on why he's agreed to do this interview: "I want to give people like me hope," he declares.

The die-sinker knows a thing or two about clever engineering – he's been helping to construct specialised aircraft parts for more than 46 years – but with multiple failing teeth, instinctively knew that he too required the kind of skill that sets him apart as an experienced factory problem-solver.

For years, gum disease had insidiously invaded his mouth until toothache had become part of his daily routine. Intellectually, he knew he needed a dentist – and a good one – but gripped by a crippling fear he'd "pop the paracetamol" rather than face his demons.

"Fear is a terrible thing . . . I remember sitting in a dentist's chair and gripping the armrests so hard I pulled one of them off," John says.

"I came here and they promised to restore my smile, but they gave me back my life. It's true," he adds.

Practice principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS Eng GDC 108353 explains: "Periodontal disease is the biggest single cause of tooth loss in the UK and John's case is not unusual.

"There is plenty of study that examines the psychological impact of troublesome teeth on our lives. But like the insidious nature of gum disease, it can happen slowly as we make small changes to accommodate oral decline. Eventually, however, as things become more acute we are less able to adapt."

Matters came to head three years ago when John's family booked a weekend break at the Brecon Beacons to do a waterfalls walk. Adds John: "We take so many things for granted. We'd been walking a good few hours and we were all ready for something to eat.

Lifestyle investment

"We came across a cafe serving bacon sandwiches. But they hadn't got any normal bread and the bacon was served with baguettes. There was no way my teeth could have coped with the crusty bread so I ended up with a piece of cheesecake. I just so wanted a bacon sarnie, but my teeth had restricted my choice. That was it. At that point I decided to sort out my teeth.

"Too many times I'd go to a restaurant and look at 20 things on the menu and was only able to manage four of the choices. I'd really want steak, but I couldn't chew it; sometimes I just wouldn't go and eat out and I was always on my guard about smiling.

"And the toothache, the impact on daily living . . . it just drags you down and confidence wanes," he says.

> "The implant teeth are great and I can eat whatever I want and go out for a meal whenever I want."

> "It's a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it has made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom."

After having six implants in his upper jaw to support a complete arch of teeth and undergoing other remedial work, John is now able to live his life without teeth worries.

"The implant teeth are great and I can eat what I want, go out for a meal when I want and more than this . . . I've got my life back," says the keen carp fisherman.

Explaining he could have changed his car, John adds such an investment would be lost very quickly. "This [the implants] has been a lifestyle investment for me and the difference it's made to my life is remarkable. It's a new kind of freedom." he says.

And his dental phobia? "All the staff were fantastic, I felt so much at ease."

The surgery was carried out by North Street's implant dentist Owain Rees BDS DGDP (UK) Dip Imp Dent (UCL) GDC 61576.

• Suction dentures • Complete dentures • Partial dentures • Copy dentures • Implant-retained dentures • Repairs service • Relines • Soft linings

North Street Dental and Implant Clinic
An Independent Practice
Call us today on 01384 254067
www.northstreetdentalclinic.co.uk

Denture Clinic also available at:
Richmond House,
112 Richmond Road, Wolverhampton, WV3 9JJ

Call us today on 0800 0285185
Denture Clinic
www.denture-clinic.co.uk

North St. Dental Clinic, 5 North Street, Dudley, West Midlands, DY2 7DT

We offer a door replacement service.

but why settle for a re-vamp when you could have a brand new kitchen for a similar price.

Call us for a quote on both options!

FINANCE* OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Get this brand new Kitchen for £1999

The price you pay includes baseunits, wall units, drawer pack, 40mm laminated worktops, handles, soft close hinges, plinth, cornice, pelmet and VAT. As illustrated above. Excludes Sink, tap, fitting and all appliances.

£1999

OPEN
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat - 10am - 5.00pm.
Thursday 10am - 7.00pm
Sunday 10am - 4pm.

Find us next to Avanti

Call in to see ex-showroom display furniture and appliances at fantastic prices

Kitchen Clearance Centre

Make sure you compare our prices before you purchase elsewhere!

Old Bush Street, off Level Street, Merry Hill DY5 1UA. Tel: 01384 262303

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi dyson Elgento Ewbank itek KENWOOD

SWAN RETRO SENSOR BIN ONLY £25

SWAN RETRO 5 PIECE PAN SET £45 ONLY

SWAN RETRO 800W MICROWAVE ONLY £40

SIGNATURE KETTLE AND TOASTER SET ONLY £10

TOWER HALOGEN OVEN ONLY £30

AKAI PORTABLE RECORD PLAYER ONLY £30

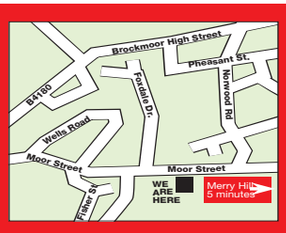
EASY HOME FREE STANDING FIREPLACE ONLY £40

www.kettleandtoasterman.co.uk

ALL OFFERS AVAILABLE ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT ONLY

We specialise in finding you the best deals available on daily basis. We stock electrical and other amazing retail products at up to 90% off the normal retail selling price.

SC



Kettle and Toaster Man

TRADE WAREHOUSE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Unit 2C, Albion Works, Moor St., Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3SZ

Tel: 01384 483 286

Est. Over 20 Years * OPEN: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Sat 8am-12pm

Offers expire 21st April, 2018. T&C's apply

AKAI BRAUN BOSCH Breville CARMEN DeLonghi dyson Elgento Ewbank itek KENWOOD

£1m Faberge flower stuns TV antiques expert

Colonel Stamford J Cartwright MBE with the £1m Faberge flower which stunned the BBC TV Antiques Roadshow

A RARE Faberge flower valued at £1 million was the star find of TV's Antiques Roadshow on Sunday.

An expert was stunned by the intricate piece of jewellery in the programme, which was recorded at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley last year.

The jewel was gifted to the Queen's Own Worcestershire Hussars in 1904 by the Countess of Dudley, the wife of Lord Dudley, the Second in Command of the Regiment, on the soldiers' return to the Midlands from the Boer War in South Africa.

The five-inch pear blossom ornament set in rock crystal, with gold, silver and diamonds, is one of only three items to be valued at £1m in the Antiques Roadshow's 40-year history.

Antiques Roadshow's jewellery expert Geoffrey Munn described it as 'the rarest, most poetic manifestation of Faberge's work that one could ever hope to see'.

The Faberge flower is owned by the Worcestershire Yeomanry Museum Charitable Trust.

Stamford Cartwright MBE, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Yeomanry's B Squadron, said: "It was gifted to mark that first occasion they were deployed overseas. They were each given a sprig of pear blossom to wear on their hats – reminding them of the county they were leaving.

"In the 1990s it was valued at just over £50,000 – so it has gone up a lot over the last 20 or so years."

HBclub
HAIRCLUB

Full Colour Eyebrow Wax Cut & Blow dry Short Hair £35	Adult Cut £6	Full head foils Toner Cut & Blow dry Short Hair £50
Eyebrow Waxing or Threading £3	Regrowth £10	Child Cut £6
Skin Fade £12	Full Colour (Short) £15	10 Foils £10

NO APPOINTMENT NECESSARY
Conditions Apply

Unit L20, Lower Mall (Next to Poundland)
Merry Hill Centre, Brierley Hill DY5 1SH.

WAIT & WATCH
For...

THE GREAT £628,000 STORE CLOSING SALE

WILLIAM & SONS
www.williamandsons.co.uk

Level Street • Merry Hill • Brierley Hill
Nr. Dudley, West Midlands DY5 1UA
Tel: 01384 77444 E-mail: sales@williamandsons.co.uk

OUR STORE WILL BE CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM 5PM ON FRIDAY 20TH UNTIL 10AM ON FRIDAY 27TH APRIL TO MARK DOWN PRICES

ADDITIONAL HELP HAS BEEN HIRED TO HANDLE THE CROWDS!

THE REASON FOR THIS GREAT SALE

Since 1996, William & Sons has been the area's premier home furnishings destination. Now, after 21 years, we have made the strategic decision to CLOSE OUR FINE QUALITY STORE located in Level Street, Merry Hill, Brierley Hill, Dudley, in order to concentrate on other personal and business interests!

TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION, WE WILL HAVE TWO PRIVATE COURTESY DAYS, BEFORE ANNOUNCING OUR STORE CLOSING SALE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

OUR STORE WILL BE CLOSED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FROM 5PM ON FRIDAY 20TH UNTIL 10AM ON FRIDAY 27TH APRIL TO MARK DOWN PRICES on our ENTIRE SELECTION of fine sofas, chairs, recliners, dining living & bedroom furniture, beds and accessories from such distinguished makers as Alstons, Bouyant, Bardi, Lebus, Rom, Andrena, Corndell, Mark Webster, Harrison Beds, Silentnight, Rest Assured and many more, which will all be sold at liquidation prices.

Nothing will be held back and we will not be undersold by anyone! First come, first served... you will not be disappointed! We will open to the general public on Friday 27th April at 10am.

William Cole - WILLIAM & SONS

See Next Weeks Newspaper For Details!

SALE BEGINS FRIDAY 27TH APRIL AT 10AM

ALL ITEMS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY © LSC 2018

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, April 19, 2018

Big choice in quality roses to choose from

SENSUOUS roses confirm the presence of early summer.

The variation in fragrance and the brilliance of their blooms create a magical atmosphere in the garden.

Roses contribute scent, form and colour and can easily be incorporated into any garden scheme.

English shrub rose is a comparatively recent introduction and includes many which have rapidly established themselves as firm favourites and are happily, widely grown.

Old shrub roses Gallica, Damask, Alba, Centifolia and Moss are the roses of history, the forerunners of today's garden shrub roses. Richly scented, magnificent blooms with lax growth, giving the garden an air of maturity.

Modern Bush Roses: For sheer brilliance of bloom, for innovative colour and for massed display, the modern bush rose will satisfy all such demands and more besides. Included in this group are the Hybrid Teas, the most popular of all garden roses, multi-flowered Floribundas, and an extensive range of miniature and Patio roses, many ideal for small gardens or pots.

Miniature and Patio roses are suitable for today's smaller gardens and are reliably hardy.

Climbing and Rambler Roses: Cascading from mature trees, draping arches and pergolas, or clothing ancient walls, even covering an unsightly shed, Climbing and Rambling roses may be put to endless use. Combine them with a complementary clematis for an eye-catching display of colour and interest over the summer period. Choose from soft, pastel shades, vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows or cooling creams and whites.

My top roses are:

ENGLISH SHRUB ROSE

Rosa Jaques Cartier (Portland Shrub Rose) – A reliable shrub rose going back 150 years, named after a famous French sailor and explorer of the 16th century. Fully double, deep rose-pink flowers with a strong, sweet scent. It produces flowers throughout the summer and autumn and blooms stand up well to rain.

OLD SHRUB ROSE

Rosa gallica var. Officianalis (Red Rose of Lancaster or The Apothecary's Rose) – a healthy and robust small shrub rose that can be relied on to provide interest and colour. Large, semi-double, fuchsia and a pure Old Rose scent with hips in autumn.

MODERN BUSH ROSE

Rosa "Just Joey" **(pictured left)** is a repeat flowering, very fragrant Hybrid Tea rose. Ruffled blooms of a coppery orange are produced throughout the summer and autumn. A rose with good disease resistance.

PATIO ROSE

Rosa "Raspberry Royal" a hardy patio floribunda rose that produces masses of weather resistant, richred flowers. Compact and lightly fragrant, ideal for small spaces. Choose an open sunny position at the front of a border or in a patio container. .

RAMBLER

Rosa "Albertine" is a large and vigorous rambling rose, perfect for training over an arch or pergola or a large sunny expanse of wall. A reliable variety of fragrant, light salmon-pink flowers in June and July. The strongly scented flowers make good cut flowers.

CLIMBER

Rosa "Laura Ford", a compact climber bearing clusters of small, loosely double flowers, bright yellow at first, becoming lemon-yellow, edged pink from early summer through until late autumn. Repeat flowering, slightly fragrant and excellent disease resistance. The flowers are borne over the height of the plant and repeat flower well followed by small orange hips.

Rosa "Golden Showers" **(pictured top)** is a yellow, repeat-flowering climbing rose with large, sweetly fragrant, semi-double, golden-yellow blooms fading to lemon and eventually cream. Flowering through the summer and into autumn, Rosa "Golden Showers" is a compact climber, ideal for smaller spaces; grows in sun or light shade.

Love Plants is offering 10 per cent off all roses during April.

Tim Robinson is manager of Love Plants at Salop Leisure in Shrewsbury

Confusion over recycling rules 'needs sorting out'

Confusing recycling rules need binning, according to green energy expert Ron Fox

CONFUSION over recycling rules needs sorting out as up to 400,000 tonnes of green rubbish is sent wrongly to landfill every year, according to energy expert Ron Fox.

In a survey commissioned by the British Science Association 2,000 people were asked about the guidelines and no one got full marks.

"Householders need more information about what can be recycled and what can't as the regulations keep changing," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park.

"In some parts of the country waste companies sort out the items, allowing it all to be thrown into a single bin. Perhaps that is a solution or that councils should sort the materials out at their depots."

The most common mistake made by 66 per cent of people was not putting kitchen foil and foil trays in the recycle bin. But it can as long as it is cleaned.

Also 58 per cent of those questioned didn't realise that empty deodorant, aerosols and hairspray containers could be reused.

There were problems with items which residents thought could be recycled but couldn't. These included hand soap pump dispensers with 44 per cent believing wrongly that the top can could be used again, 33 per cent thinking that kitchen roll is recyclable and 24 per cent making the same error with coffee cups which have a plastic lining.

Other mistakes were 35 per cent didn't empty and rinse shampoo and conditioner bottles and 29 per cent didn't clean food containers.

Meanwhile, the charity Wrap pointed out that under new rules items which cannot be recycled are black plastic bottles – because sorting equipment cannot detect the colour black – wine glasses, greeting cards with glitter on, nail varnish bottles, crisp packets, nappies and window glass.

But the guidelines said that telephone directories, envelopes with windows, egg boxes and takeaway trays could now be recycled. Also green items should not be put in black sacks as they are all sent automatically to landfill sites. Sometimes householders have been found trying to recycle the most unusual items, including a dead pet, a collection of glass eyes and a blow-up doll.

"The serious point is that this confusion may cause recycling levels to fall which won't help reduce our carbon footprint," said Mr Fox.

A worrying statistic is that a survey by Serco's Environmental Services business research partner, Future Thinking, found that three in 10 people didn't recycle as much as they could because of the confusing rules and this rose to 57 per cent in the 16 to 34 year range.

"Interestingly," added Mr Fox, "82 per cent of 55 to 74 year olds and 88 per cent of over 75s reuse all they can. The best area is Wales where 75 per cent say they recycle everything possible with the West Midlands in second place with 69 per cent."

Shedding light on dangers of the 'enemy within'

Report by Hannah Stephenson

WHEN we think of invasive plants, alarm bells might ring at the mention of Japanese knotweed or giant hogweed – but can the same be said about buddleia, bamboo or montbretia?

Yet these – and other – common plants will be coming under the spotlight at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show in a garden of invasive plants, created to highlight non-native species that "escape" from gardens up and down the UK and the damage they can do once let loose.

To raise awareness of the issue, experts from the Property Care Association's Invasive Weed Control Group are developing the "Enemy Within" garden at the show, which will run from May 22 to 26, to show 14 of the good, the bad and the ugly invasive non-native plants currently thriving in gardens across the country.

These include montbretia, false Virginia creeper, Japanese rose, three-cornered garlic, the garden lupin, buddleia and cotoneaster.

Professor Max Wade, chairman of the PCA's Invasive Weed Control Group, says: "We know from studies of today's invasive weeds that it can take decades to become a national problem after escaping from gardens.

"For instance, giant rhubarb was first seen outside of gardens in 1908 and it wasn't until about the turn of the century that it became invasive, while Japanese knotweed took from 1886 to about 1940 to start its ascendancy.

"Based on this, we should consider that not only is tomorrow's Japanese knotweed growing in gardens today, but we are busy planting the follow-on generation to perpetuate the process."

Steve Hodgson, chief executive of the PCA, says: "We don't have to allow invasive plants to become such a big problem if we act responsibly. Non-natives which find niches in habitats, tend to grow without competition.

"If we are responsible about how we manage what we've got, we should be able to avoid the problems we see with things like Himalayan balsam, giant hogweed and knotweed."

Other plants that have the same potential include:

BAMBOO

There's been a lot of bamboo planted over the years, thanks to its popularity in gardening makeover shows and horticultural fashion generally, says Hodgson. If they are left unchecked they can be just as damaging as anything else. "Watch it, manage it and if in doubt, remove it," he advises. "There are well-established professional organisations that can help if you can't do it yourself."

Buddleia – or the "butterfly bush" – can cause serious structural damage to buildings

Bamboo is popular but should not be left unchecked

Advice – Steve Hodgson of the PCA

BUDDLEIA

"We have a massive problem with the butterfly bush," he says. "It's a real nightmare. Anecdotally, it causes more structural damage to buildings than anything else. The fact is, if it is left close to buildings, the buddleia roots are so strong they will pull the masonry apart. It starts from a seed." Plant a buddleia near to your home at your peril. If you see any seedlings which have taken next to the house, pull them out.

MONTBRETIA

"Leave it alone it will spread like wildfire. In most domestic gardens it will out-compete the other plants in the flowerbed – and when you get it into a wild environment, it does exactly the same thing." You can dig the corms of montbretia up to keep it in check – but don't dispose of it on your compost heap because it's likely that wherever you spread the compost, the montbretia will follow. One solution is to burn the corms.

AQUATIC PLANTS

Pennywort and water fern are problematic, he says. Reports of the invasive plant floating pennywort in rivers and lakes have reached a record high, officials are warning. "They often arrive because somebody's cleaned out a fish tank. They were imported and used in aquariums and fish tanks and people clean them out and chuck them into the nearest pond, and before you know it, they are filling up rivers and ponds. They do a huge amount of environmental damage."

JAPANESE KNOTWEED

This is a massive problem, because if you disturb it and then leave fragments under new structures, it will grow back through an extension or a patio or into a conservatory. The RHS has just extended its advice to include the role of professional firms to eradicate knotweed, warning that DIY attempts at treatment or removal may not be successful.

For keen gardeners who wish to attempt to treat or dig out Japanese knotweed themselves, the RHS warns the plant is very deeply penetrating and success is not assured. Also, it is classed as "controlled waste" and therefore requires careful disposal at licensed landfill sites.

Chamber's first female president

Chartered management accountant Julie Cunningham, of Willenhall-based AF Blakemore, is the new president

THE Black Country Chamber of Commerce has appointed its first female president – AF Blakemore's wholesale finance director Julie Cunningham.

The chartered management accountant has a wealth of commercial experience across a number of organisations, including Midland Recruitment Solutions and Poundland. She also spent six years as a self-employed financial consultant and headed up high-level projects on behalf of the Co-op, Holland & Barrett, M&S, Homeserve and the RAC.

At Willenhall-based AF Blakemore she sits on six divisional boards and has expertise in defining, implementing and managing strategy. She said: I am delighted to be taking on the position as president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, especially given that I am the first female to have been appointed to the role. I want to work closely with members to raise the profile of our local chamber on both a regional and national level."

Biggest business festival is set to start

MONDAY marks the start of the Black Country Business Festival and 19 of the more than 120 events between then and May 4 will be taking place in the Dudley area.

In its inaugural year, the festival is already the biggest business event in the region.

The festival will see everything from seminars, workshops, behind-the-scenes tours and speed networking to conferences, exhibitions and debates. Most events are completely free to attend.

By Fiona Smith

Data

The Dudley-based events are being held in a range of different and interesting venues within the area, such as the Showcase Cinema, Black Country Living Museum, Dudley Canal Trust, Intu Merry Hill shopping centre and at several locally-based businesses which are running their own events.

A array of subject matters comprise property development, general data protection regulations (GDPR), diversity, apprenticeships, exports, recruitment, funding and credit, as well as health and safety.

Helen Martin is the chief officer for regeneration and enterprise at Dudley Council, the authority behind DY5 – Dudley's Business and Innovation Enterprise Zone – and a partner of the Business Festival. She said, "It's fantastic to see so many events in our area.

"We are very much looking forward to the start of our first Business Festival and are delighted that DY5 is playing an integral part."

All the events are listed on the website www.blackcountrybusinessfestival.com where tickets are also available on a first come first served basis.

Save cash with the Big Switch

Dudley Council's Big Switch has made it easy to switch energy supplier and save. Thousands have registered for the hassle free scheme, saving up to £300 on their gas and electricity bills.

It's free and easy to register for the market leading deals on offer.

Register by 21 May 2018

Call Dudley Council Plus* on 0300 555 2345

Or you can also register online and find out more information at www.dudley.gov.uk/bigswitch

*Please have a copy of your current bill to hand when calling

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

YOUR CHOICE... FOR A BETTER BATHROOM

APRIL & MAY FITTING DATES NOW BEING RESERVED

" Our company is owned and run by local tradesmen meaning the work is carried out properly and on time. We strive to keep our prices as low as possible in order to keep within the budgets of retired, disabled and working families which make up 95% of our customers "

THE LOCAL SPECIALIST IN BATHROOM REFURBISHMENT

We want YOUR CHOICE to be us...

EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3950

• 90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray • 15 SQM Wall Tiles • Tiled Floor • Replacement Shower • New Basin & WC • All Rubbish Removed

WE OFFER A FREE NO OBLIGATION HOME VISIT & ON THE SPOT PRICE WITHIN 48 HRS OF YOUR CALL

WE DO THE LOT IN 5 DAYS

THIS WEEKS BATHROOM SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in and out of your Bath? We will remove the Bath & Fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tiled inside. Supply a new replacement shower. A Folding Seat & Grab Rail.

ALL FOR ONLY £2150

EXTRA DISCOUNT FOR OUR RETIRED & DISABLED CUSTOMERS

Unit 4, Charterfield Shopping Centre, Charterfield Drive, Kingswinford, DY6 7SH

TELEPHONE: 01384 287222

www.yourchoice-bathrooms.co.uk

VISA MasterCard

VAT FREE IN QUALIFYING CASES

Open 9am - 5pm 6 days a week

Showroom also at: Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, Wolverhampton, WV11 1TW. 01902 861908

Go to the Park side for Star Wars exhibition

FAMILIES can take a trip to a galaxy far, far away at Himley Hall and Park's new Lego exhibition.

Visitors can feel the force at the Star Wars-themed Amor Lego display, which runs until Sunday, September 30.

Admission is free for both adults and children. Star Wars fans can view a series of displays which include an Ewok village, space station, desert and ice plateau staged with figures and vehicles. Lego versions of gunships, including the Imperial Star Destroyer and Millennium Falcon, a Sandcrawler, AT-AT Walkers and Jabba the Hut's Palace are also all featured.

Check out the Y Wing starfighter

An early Lego Yoda

Posters

Individual Lego figures include popular characters from the films such as Jabba the Hut, Bobba Fett, Han Solo, Luke Skywalker, Princess Leia, Chewbacca, Obi-Wan-Kenobi, C3-PO and R2-D2 – plus a range of Storm Troopers, Droids and Ewoks.

Models made out of Lego include Yoda, a life-size Darth Maul head and a range of vehicles, including the Death Star. A range of light sabres and official Lego posters are also on display.

Families visiting the exhibition will also be able to see other items from the technics and creator Lego ranges such as the Sydney Opera House.

Dudley Council said it is delighted to offer the new exhibition, which it hopes will prove interesting for all age groups across the Black Country.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director for place, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer this wonderful exhibition, which will prove interesting to children and adults of all ages. I am sure visitors will have fun identifying the Lego versions of their favourite characters and can try out the new coffee lounge at the same time."

Two further exhibitions will also be on display in the Oak Gallery at Himley Hall until Saturday, July 8 – a 40-year retrospective of the painter Ron Satterthwaite and a Wildlife Wander around the World featuring a range of wildlife paintings by David Spencer.

Himley Hall catering manager Lisa Guest with R2-D2

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Your Chronicle in association with Omega.

The Tina Turner Musical

Nobody ever did storming, gyrating rock goddess like Tina Turner, one of the best-selling artists in history, whose rasping power vocal, tempestuous personal life and sheer survival instinct were just begging to be turned into a rock opera.

Well now it has been, in a show written by Olivier award-winning playwright Katori Hall and directed by the internationally acclaimed Phyllida Lloyd, and you can see it erupt onto the stage at London's Aldwych Theatre. With coach travel, hotel accommodation and free time in London, this isn't just a great deal – it's Simply the Best!

London Theatre Break
2 Days By Coach - Evening Show

Departing Saturday 16 Jun
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ Overnight stay at a 3 or 4-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast
- ✔ The Tina Turner Musical theatre ticket - Grand Circle (evening performance)
- ✔ Free time in London

2 Days By Coach only **£149**

Also Available on this package and date

2 Days By Coach only **£139**

2 Days By Coach only **£119**

2 Days By Coach only **£149**

Omega Holidays cannot be held responsible for the non-appearance of a particular actor/actress; no refunds will be given in this event. Whilst we always try to ensure that parties are seated together, very occasionally, it may be necessary for parties to be split. Couples are always seated together. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: **03300 130 051** Quote **OMRT**
or visit online at: **omegabreaks.com/RT**
ABTA Travel with confidence ABTA No. V4782
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.

Council House demo over travellers' site

CAMPAIGNERS have protested over plans for a temporary travellers site – and handed over a petition signed by nearly 1,000 people.

Members of the action group Coseley Focus stood at the foot of Dudley Council House to voice their opposition to proposals to build the transit site on Budden Road in Coseley.

And they vowed to 'do whatever it takes' to stop the plans.

The council is setting up the site in a bid to tackle illegal camps, which will cost taxpayers £150,000 a year in clean-up and legal fees. Budden Road has been chosen as the preferred site but the public can still have their say as part of a planning application.

Concerns

Coseley Focus has 956 signatures on a petition opposing the specific site, which was given to councillors before a full council meeting last week. The council has pushed back the date for objections to April 26.

Campaigner Tony Sheldon, aged 70, of Gough Road, Coseley raised concerns about the land in Budden Road being 'contaminated'. He said the protest had proved a success, adding: "It was a good day for us. We did not get as many as expected but we accomplished what we wanted to."

Council leader Patrick Harley said: "We have gone through quite a democratic process. During the consultation process residents and councillors were asked to submit alternative sites and they did, but none matched the criteria Budden Road did,

The council and police will be able to move travellers onto the transit site from camps elsewhere in the borough.

Campaigners take their contamination message to Dudley Council

Throwaway cup concern

HOSPITALS in the Black Country and Birmingham purchased millions of disposable cups over the last five years, new figures show.

Data obtained through Freedom of Information requests showed that NHS trusts in the West Midlands had bought millions of cups since 2013, amid rising concern over the environmental impact of single-use throwaway items.

Figures from Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust, which runs Russells Hall, showed it received 62,925 cups but this does not include cups purchased through the trust's PFI partner.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which runs New Cross Hospital, ordered nearly four million and University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust 10.1 million.

SALE NOW ON

bilston bathrooms
QUALITY INSTALLATIONS
NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED
FULL PAYMENT ON COMPLETION

SPECIALISTS IN NEW BATHROOMS
• Design & Planning • Plastering
• Fully Fitted Service • Tiling
• Plumbing • 7 Days Start to Finish
• Electrical Work • All Work Guaranteed

Established 35 Years

SPECIAL OFFER
FOR THE LESS ABLE
Remove Existing Suite
Replaster where needed
Supply Walk in Cubicle
Grab Rails, Shower Seat
Thermostatic Shower
All fitted & Tiled
All Rubbish removed
ONLY £1995
Including VAT

SPECIAL OFFER
LUXURY MAKEOVER
Remove Existing Suite
Replaster where needed
Supply & Fit Luxury Suite
(inc. Vanity Unit)
Wall Tiles to Ceiling
(upto 18sqm)
All Rubbish removed
ONLY £2995
Including VAT

DISPLAY DEALERS IN
Utopia • Roper Rhodes • Roca • Marflow
Burlington • Lakes and more

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTE
Est 35 Years
VISIT OUR SHOWROOM INSIDE
tiles with style TILE CHOICE
MON - FRI 8.00am - 6.00pm SAT 8.00am - 5.30pm
SUN 10.00am - 4.00pm Bank Holiday - 10.00am - 5.00pm

7 Millfields Road Bilston WV14 0QJ
Tel: 01902 401020

QUALITY KITCHEN FACELIFTS
A fresh approach to a new kitchen

why replace when you can reface?

• Trusted reputation
• Made to measure custom-built doors and units
• Door swaps to full kitchens - tailored to your needs

www.dreamdoors.co.uk

DREAM DOORS®
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

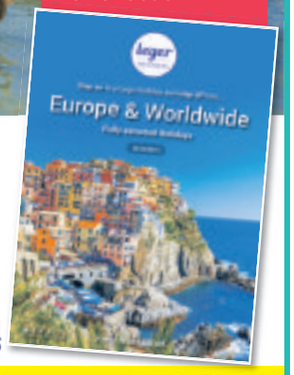
View our credentials on
Checkatrade.com

Call Gary For a Free Estimate
01384 466991
dy@dreamdoors.co.uk
26 Lower High Street, Stourbridge, DY8 1TA

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind
Your Chronicle in association with leger holidays

Discover the Best of Europe

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER!
SAVE £20pp on all tours.
Offer Code: READ



Enjoy one of our fully escorted touring holidays travelling by luxury coach.

✓ Holidays from only £259pp
✓ Luxury coaches with extra legroom
✓ £50pp low deposit
✓ FREE brochure – order now!

ABTA ATOL

Local joining points: *Dudley*, Stourbridge*, Halesowen*, Birmingham*

Call 01709 787 491 (Quote: RP22) www.leger.co.uk

Terms & conditions apply. *Supplements may apply.

Sting must be delighted as his ship sails in

A scene from Sting's new musical The Last Ship, which is docked in Birmingham this week

THE LAST SHIP, NEW ALEXANDRA THEATRE

HOW intimidating must it be for an actor or actress to have to perform in front of the show's creator – particularly if he happens to be international superstar and music legend Sting.

But how proud must the singer be when an auditorium of people leap to their feet for a richly-deserved standing ovation as the curtain falls on his creation.

Sting attended the opening night of the show in Birmingham on Monday, joined by reggae singer Shaggy, who he has collaborated with on a new album.

Judging by the smile on his face as he joined the cast on stage at the New Alexandra Theatre, Sting was bursting with pride. The Last Ship is an incredibly powerful show. He has described The Last Ship as very personal and a repayment of 'an emotional debt' to the home town he abandoned at the age of 18 but he now credits as making him what he is today.

The musical is set in the dying years of the shipping industry in a Tyneside town and sees the return of sailor Gideon Fletcher who fled the town as a young man refusing to sacrifice himself to the working life mapped out for him. Gideon, played by Richard Fleeshman, returns in the hope of rekindling romance with childhood sweetheart Meg. He returns in troubled times as the shipyard workers, led by Jackie White (Joe McGann), battle for their livelihoods

As might be expected, the song list is exciting and creative. Many numbers are upbeat, rousing and foot-stomping anthems. There are also some beautiful ballads such as the emotional When We Dance and the title song, The Last Ship, is particularly poignant.

Runs at the Alex until Saturday.

DIANE DAVIES

MNA DIGITAL

STAND OUT FROM YOUR RIVALS

Advertise your business on the **Express & Star** website
www.expressandstar.com

To find out how you can benefit call MNA Digital on 01902 319730

Everything and more as rock gets jitters

Everything Everything, O2 Academy, Birmingham

Everything Everything were every inch a band at the peak of their powers when their snowed-off March gig finally took place in the hot and heaving Brum venue.

First up, it was good to see support band Pumarosa back in action. The dance-rock outfit from London give off excellent festival vibes and singer Isabel Munoz-Newsome, returning after a serious illness, was in fine form whirling and gyrating her way through the epic Priestess.

EE have won a loyal following over four albums for their distinctive style of alternative rock, a jittery, skittering sound. If you haven't heard them, try to imagine a blend of Talking Heads, XTC and Muse, that's in the ballpark.

From opening song Fever Dream – title track of the latest album – to encores White Whale, Distant Past and No Reptiles, orange trenchcoat-clad singer Jonathan Higgs commanded the stage. His quicksilver vocals go from tenor to helium falsetto to ultra-rapid rap, often within just a couple of lines of lyric.

Those oblique lyrics often reflect an unease with what society has become, maybe reflected by the young audience which at one point began chanting the name of Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn.

LEON BURAKOWSKI

Celebrities lined up for the Dancing On Ice tour when it reached Birmingham

N-ice one Ray, good to see you back as champ

REVIEWS

Dancing on Ice Tour, Arena, Birmingham

IT'S back – and oh how I have missed it. And the chance at last to see Torvill and Dean dancing again.

In the TV run we were only treated to one display by the golden couple. Something to do with insurance, I believe, but this time, by popular demand, they took to the ice.

I have always loved the TV series – I must admit I used to ban everyone from the living room on Sundays when it was on so I could give it my full attention – but the return this year left me a bit disappointed. It just did not seem to have the same impact.

But the tour, well, I came away aghast as usual but only after the second half – I will explain later. This time Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean were in the role of judges along with guest judge Denise Van Outen. In addition to their scores the audience vote from their mobiles for their favourite.

Birmingham was the last spot for the tour and surprisingly there were a lot of empty seats for the first of three nights. In the first half the celebrities performed, with Cheryl Baker looking as shaky as ever. But the current TV champ Jake Quickenden was superb and the singer even treated us to a song in the second half.

Unfortunately for him, but not for the audience, previous champion and champion of champions Ray Quinn was in the line-up and how do you follow that? After the audience vote it came down to Ray and Jake and in the Bolero dance-off. Ray picked up the trophy. The rest of the stars were Donna Air. Max Evans and Alex Beresford.

I was left a bit flat after the first half but things definitely looked up as the professional routines left the audience awestruck.

SUE ATTWATER

HALF PRICE
SUBSCRIPTION OFFER
JUST £2.00 PER MONTH (INC. P&P)

To subscribe call our free customer care hotline on 0800 146 540

Overseas 12-month gift subscriptions are available from: Europe £73.56, rest of the world £110.76 (Includes P&P, Direct Debit or Pre-payment)

WOLVERHAMPTON MAGAZINE

DESIGNED | PLANNED | INSTALLED

THE ONE STOP SHOPPING | EXPERIENCE FOR YOUR
NEW KITCHEN / BATHROOM AND BEDROOM

Serenity
KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

FREE & NO OBLIGATION
WE TRY HARDER
HOME VISIT AND SURVEY

COME AND VISIT US IN STORE TODAY

EXAMPLE JOB
- Shower enclosure or bath
- New shower/basin/wc
- 15 sqm wall and floor tiling
- Debris removed

Only £3850.00

DISABILITY SPECIAL OFFER
We have a good history of working with clients who have trouble using their bath
- New shower and folding seat and grab rail
- Receive a new easy access shower
- Tiled inside

Only £2150.00
age UK RECOMMENDED

DUDLEY Dawley Trading Estate | Stallings Lane | Kingswinford | DY6 7AP

Call us on 01384 279 997
Email: info@serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk
www.serenitykitchensbathrooms.co.uk

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK | SUNDAY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

Wear Glasses?

SAVE UP TO 70% OFF

Complete Glasses from £19.99

Varifocals from £45 upgrade

THE SPECTACLE STORE

DUDLEY 01384 252903
SMETHWICK 0121 558 1621
BRIERLEY HILL 01384 484446

Spot the difference WIN £25

Win £25 to spend with one of the advertisers on this page. Simply take a look at the two pictures below - when you have spotted the 7 differences, circle them in picture B. Fill in the entry form and send your completed entry to the address below. Do not forget to include the name of the advertiser you would like to spend your £25 with, chosen from this page. Should you be the lucky winner. Send your completed entry to:

Susan Jones, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 4DG

I would like to spend my prize money with.....

Mr/Mrs/Miss .....First Name.....

Surname.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....Tel No.....

Email .....

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. Signature.....

Rules: Entrants must be 18 or over. Closing date for entries is 27th April 2018. The winner will be notified by post. The first correct entry opened after the closing date will receive the prize. There is no cash alternative to the prize. The prize will be issued in cheque form made payable to the advertiser as chosen by the winner. Once issued the cheque cannot be altered and must be cashed within two months of receipt. Employees or their immediate relatives of the MNA group of companies may NOT enter. The Editor's decision is final. The winner must be prepared to take part in any publicity.

STOUR VALLEY CAT RESCUE
REGISTERED CHARITY No. 514904

STOUR VALLEY CAT RESCUE

TABLE TOP SALE

at

HAGLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
Worcester Lane, Hagley
Saturday 21st April 2018
10am - 12 noon
ADMISSION FREE

LOTS OF INTERESTING STALLS AND GREAT BARGAINS

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
Please come along and support us
For further information call Anita 01384 375832

Langs of Wollaston

Locally Sourced Meat • Supreme Pork Pie Champion

Traditional Black Country Butcher

Black Country Bosta Pork Pies
2 Faggots in Gravy, Black Country receipe
Home made Pies
Black Country Black Pudding
Pork Dripping
Ox Tail
Bread Pudding

Opening hours: Mon-Fri 7 am-5.30 pm, Sat 7-4.30 pm
127 Bridgnorth Road, Stourbridge DY8 3NX
Like us on Facebook
Tel: 01384 395460

Kingswinford & Stourbridge Lions Club

Quality Bedding Plants delivered FREE to your door on Saturday 12th May 2018

Buy from us and know the money you spend on plants will make a difference

For brochures: Tel 01384 392797
Download a pdf version from www.kandslion.org.uk
Order and pay online from www.freewebstore.org/ks-lions-plants

Please come along and support our next event
CANAL FUN DAY & DUCK RACE
SUNDAY 6TH MAY 11AM - 4PM
WORDSLEY JUNCTION PLAYING FIELDS
OFF KINVER STREET DY8 5DJ

SHOWROOM DISPLAY SALE

NEW
Ex Display Fitted Bedroom Furniture

Call Martyn today or come along to our Showroom in Brierley Hill

Call Martyn today or come along to our Showroom in Brierley Hill

www.martyn4newideas.co.uk
Telephone 01384 482662 / 07802 451232

SHEET MATERIALS AND D.I.Y SPECIALISTS

• Rough Sawn & Planed Timber • MDF Skirting • Architrave • Cladding • Stair Parts • Tongue & Groove • Chip Board • Plaster Board

BEST PRICES CALL FOR A FREE QUOTATION 01384 78857

Cheap Logs & Kindling

Post crete **£4.99** | Oil based creosote **£10** Sleepers **£16**
6x5 larch lap panels (mint) **£17** | Bird tables **£35**
Wooden planters from **£10**
Trellis, wishing wells, decking, fence paint

Robins Timber COMPANY

Established 80 years *Trade and public welcome
Every Kind of Timber for every Kind of Job

Canalside Ind Estate, Wedgbury Way,
Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, DY5 3JZ
New website: **www.robinstimber.com**
Open: 7.30am-4.30pm Mon-Fri 8.30am-12.30pm Sat

Stourbridge Railway Society

MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

VARIOUS LAYOUTS
REFRESHMENTS
TRADE STANDS
DEMONSTRATIONS

10am – 5pm Sat
10am – 4.30pm Sun
Free Parking

BONDED WAREHOUSE

Canal Street, Stourbridge DY8 4LU
SAT/SUN. 21st/22nd APRIL 2018

ADULTS: £3.50 CHILD/OAP: £2 FAMILY (2+2): £10

The Bonded Warehouse is a Grade II Listed Building, there wheelchair access is restricted to the Basement exhibition area only. | The Society reserves the right to refuse admission.

The Ticket

@TheTicket_Star

FROM MOD LIFE TO DOUBLE LIFE

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + TV LISTINGS + PUZZLES

The NEW WELLINGTON CARVERY
383 Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill
DY5 3LQ
Tel: 01384 76066

ALL YOU CAN EAT BUFFET STYLE BREAKFAST
Now being served 7 days a week by popular demand 8am till 11am

Half Price Mondays 5 till 8 on a selection of main meals

WHAT'S ON
QUIZ NIGHT
Come and test your knowledge!!
General / Music / Current Affairs
Pictures Round
Monday's From 8.30pm

KIDS EAT FREE
Monday - Saturday 3pm till 6pm
One free kids Carvery with every full paying Adult. Age 12 and under
Cannot be used with any other offer

NOW HOSTING LIVE BANDS EVERY FRIDAY
FRI 20TH APRIL - CRACKERS ROCKING '88'
SAT 21ST APRIL - THE BRITANNIA BEAT
FRI 27TH APRIL - VERSION
SAT 28TH APRIL - BOURBON ALLEY
FRI 4TH MAY - HIGHWAY
SAT 5TH MAY - BLUE CONDITION
FRI 11TH MAY - SQUEAKY PETE LIQUOR AND POKER BAND
SAT 12TH MAY - GOT THE T SHIRT

The Ticket

To Advertise Your Pub, Restaurant Or Venue Here Please Call Sarah Childs On 01384 353227

Phil's got nowhere to Hyde in new role

A twisted, nerve-jangling tale of horror will play out at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre when Phil Daniels stars in the gothic thriller Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

The age-old tale by Robert Louis Stevenson focuses on one of the kind and gifted Dr Jekyll's most audacious experiments, in which he tries to separate good from evil.

Inadvertently, Jekyll unleashes an alternative personality of pure evil . . . the mysterious Mr Hyde. And as the sinister figure starts causing terror and havoc in foggy London, Jekyll must race to find a cure for his monstrous alter-ego before it takes over for good.

The new production will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from May 1-5 and stars Phil Daniels, whose extensive and varied credits include Jimmy Cooper in Quadrophenia, Richards in Scum and Kevin Wicks in EastEnders.

Phil has worked with the RSC and NT and appeared on stage in productions as diverse as Les Miserables and This House.

We caught up with the star to find out what made him take on the role of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde.

How would you describe this version on the classic story?

"It's set in Victorian London so it's traditional in that respect and it's quite close in many respects to the book as well, but it delves into Dr Jekyll's personal life a bit more. There are more female characters in it, like his sister, and it explores how his father – who started the experiment which Dr Jekyll continues – was never very nice to him in his lifetime."

What's your take on the dual characters of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde?

"When I first spoke to Jenny King [the show's producer and creator of the Touring Consortium Theatre Company] about Jekyll and Hyde I was interested in the way sometimes when people have a drink they become different people. You know, they can be as good as gold one day but as soon as they've had a drink they become snarling animals. I was interested in that and approaching the characters from a point of view that, even though there is a liquid that Jekyll does take that turns him into this monster or which exposes the darker side of his personality, that darker side is in him already. He just releases it."

What are the challenges for you as an actor?

"It's about making it as real as possible – that there are two aspects of his personality and not just a crazed animal that's come out of nowhere. It's about finding out why Dr Jekyll is also Edward Hyde. What I don't want to do is make Hyde just evil, I want the audience to make their own mind up about who's the worst out of the two of them or who's the best, which facets of each character they like or appreciate and which facets they don't. That's the challenge – to make them both credible people. One might be a villain and one might commit a murder but it's because of the other one's personality that he does it."

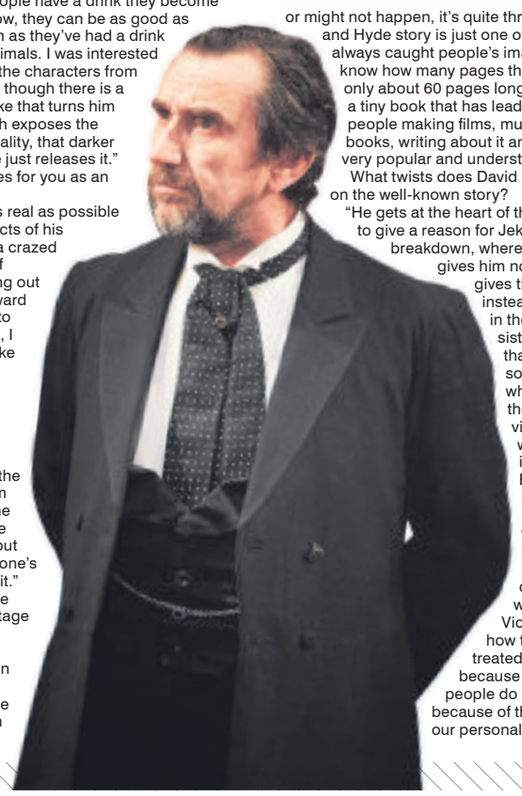
Why do you feel theatre audiences love a good stage thriller?

"If there's a story that captures your imagination and has a beginning, a middle and an end, where something might happen or might not happen, it's quite thrilling. The Jekyll and Hyde story is just one of those stories that's always caught people's imaginations. I don't know how many pages the book is; I think it's only about 60 pages long, it's very slim. It's a tiny book that has lead to an industry of people making films, musicals, plays, other books, writing about it and analysing it. It's very popular and understandably so."

What twists does David Edgar's play spin on the well-known story?

"He gets at the heart of the story. He tries to give a reason for Jekyll and Hyde's breakdown, where Jekyll's father gives him no credit but he gives the daughter credit instead. There's a secret in the past between the sister and the brother that's quite violent so it's not just Hyde who's the violent one, there's something violent in Jekyll as well. That's what's interesting about Edgar's script; he gets deep into that. Plus with characters like Lanyon and Utterson there's a debate going on within the play about Victorian England, how the poor are being treated and whether it's because of society that people do bad things or because of the binary system of our personalities."

Double trouble – Phil Daniels in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde



Have you done any research into the Victorian era? If so, what have you been most interested to learn?

"It's interesting that medicine was at a stage where they started to think anything was possible. Great leaps forward were happening and to be involved in that as a doctor would have been something someone like Dr Jekyll would have relished. I think part of his motivation for continuing these experiments and to write papers about them is to gain notoriety in medical circles. Maybe he's just an ordinary doctor who is trying to push his way into being famous."

You've had such a long and varied career. Which roles are you most recognised for?

"Mainly it's because of Quadrophenia, which has become a cult film over the years. I get a little bit of EastEnders but not so much. [Laughs] It depends on which supermarket you go to; it happens more in Lidl than Marks and Spencer's but there you go."

With a role like this do you enjoy disappearing into a character?

"It's quite a leap for me because I'm playing Jekyll as a posh Edinburgh doctor and Hyde as a Glaswegian. I'm burying myself in all that, but it's enjoyable getting deep into characters. You have to put the work in. [Laughs] Although I don't get deep enough to go around murdering people, of course."

Are you more Jekyll or Hyde? Or a bit of both?

"I think there's a little bit of me in both of them. There's a bit of snobbery in Hyde and a bit of swagger in Jekyll but also a bit of swagger in Hyde too. It's the same with all of us I suppose."

And finally, you'll play Wolverhampton Grand at the start of May. Does it have any significance for you?

"All of Blur's road crew are from Wolverhampton and because of my association with the band hopefully some of those boys will come see the show."

ANDY RICHARDSON

● **For more entertainment news and reviews see The Ticket in your Express & Star every Friday.**

Isaac Gracie – debut album

Singer-songwriter Isaac is not Terrified any more

RISING star Isaac Gracie released his self-titled debut album last week and will be playing songs from it at Birmingham's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday).

The singer-songwriter's mellow music has caused a stir and attracted growing attention with the singles Terrified and The Death of You & I.

With a voice apparently mature beyond his years, the 23-year-old former University of East Anglia creative writing student has been mentioned in the same breath as several greats. Having uploaded a demo version of his breakthrough song Last Words, he found it daunting to find his name placed alongside such music heroes as Jeff Buckley and Bob Dylan.

"I was like 'I'm no good! I can't write a song! You've got me wrong! It's difficult with that gaze because they want integrity, they want truth, the want honesty – but they also want a big old smash hit," he says.

"At that time of writing songs, it was purely to try and do justice to the things I was feeling."

Then he took time out of the spotlight to explore new musical territory and learn to interact with a full band. The result is his debut album. He says: "I feel, at this point, really ready to put out the record, ready to live by it and ready to learn from it. Then I'll go forward."

The pick of the gigs also includes: Saturday, Bolan boogie with T Rextasy, Bilston's Robin 2; Monday, Barenaked Ladies back with their 15th album Fake Nudes, O2 Institute; Wednesday, hard rockers Of Mice & Men, O2 Institute.

Express jazz from acclaimed guitarist

JAZZ guitarist Remi Harris, whose celebrity fans and collaborators include Jamie Cullum, will be performing at the Pizza Express in Brindley Place, Birmingham, tomorrow night (Friday).

Remi, pictured, has more than 40 dates booked with his jazz and blues trio travelling more than 6,000 miles in three months.

Remi's unique style draws inspiration from gypsy swing, blues, rock and world music. He has toured worldwide and performed on the Chris Evans Radio 2 breakfast show with Jamie Cullum, and has appeared at the Montreal Jazz Festival, the BBC Proms and on Radio 3. Jamie Cullum, who hosts his own jazz show on Radio 2, said, "Remi Harris is an incredible guitarist, I'm absolutely blown away by his talent."

Herefordshire-born Remi, 30, said, "I'm really looking forward to performing in Birmingham again, it has a rich history of great music and I always enjoy playing there. We've been working on new material and we're excited to be on the road again."

From the day he was born his mother, of French origin, chose the name Remi, inspired by the musical scale Do-Re-Mi. He called his first album 'Ninick' in memory of his mother.

Primarily self taught, Remi started playing at the age of seven, initially inspired by rock and blues guitarists such as Jimi Hendrix, Peter Green and Jimmy Page. In his late teens he developed an interest in jazz music, in particular artists such as Django Reinhardt and Wes Montgomery.

To book tickets contact www.remiharris.co.uk or call Pizza Express on 0207 4394962 and ask for the Birmingham show.

Magnum marking 50 years in music

British hard rock legends Magnum will perform at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Thursday as part of their Eternity World Tour. The rearranged show coincides with the release of their new album Lost on the Road to Eternity. Fronted by founders Bob Catley and Tony Clarkin, pictured, Magnum have become stalwarts of the classic rock scene in the UK over 50 years. The current five-piece line-up includes Rick Benton (keyboards), bassist Al Barrow and drummer Lee Morris.

Drag, disco, dance, comedy and science

Three men from West Bromwich Operatic Society will be putting on the flamboyant make up and outrageous frocks when the company brings disco hit-packed musical Priscilla Queen of the Desert to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday. Based on the hit movie, the stage show follows the adventures of a troupe of drag queens across the Aussie Outback in an often hilarious and sometimes poignant road trip.

Strictly Come Dancing's Aljaz and Janette will be Remember Fred (Astaire) at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday. That's the same night comedian Robin Ince, who co-presents BBC Radio 4's Infinite Monkey Cage science chat with Professor Brian Cox, brings his Pragmatic Insanity solo show to Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre.

BT Sport
THE ASHWOOD INN
Your local entertainment centre
Function room seating 120, with full bar dance floor and stage area
Local Band
FRONT COVERS
Saturday 19th May
£5 On The Door
BUFFETS
of any size catered for hot or cold for all tastes
Private lounge room for up to 70 people
2 cask Ales
Birthdays, anniversaries, wakes, christenings, meetings all catered for
2 Sandringham Pl, Wordsley, Stourbridge DY8 5HP
See our FB page or call on numbers below for more information
T: 01384 295083 or M: 07814 674325

BREWMONKEY HOMEBREW
Everything for home brewing and winemaking
Come and visit our New bigger shop!
State of the Art Equipment
HOME BAR SUPPLIES
Traditional Equipment
Brew Your Own Real Ale
Winemaking Kits and Supplies
CIDER and LIQUEUR MAKING
23 HIGH STREET
CRADLEY HEATH
(OPPOSITE TESCO)
01384 620238 WWW.BREWMONKEY.CO.UK

the Ticket
To advertise your Pub, Restaurant or Venue here
Please Call Sarah Childs On 01384 353227

SATURDAY'S TV APRIL 21

CHOICE

Queen Elizabeth II

The Queen's Birthday Party
(BBC1, 8pm)
A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Craig David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Hairy Bikers' Asian Adventure. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** The London Marathon: My Reason to Run. **1.45** Live Snooker: The World Championship. Coverage of two first-round matches involving Kyren Wilson and Ronnie O'Sullivan. **4.35** BBC News. **4.45** Regional Programme. **4.55** Match of the Day Live: The FA Cup. Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur (Kick-off 5.15pm).

7.15 Pointless Celebrities. Diane Louise Jordan, the Rev Richard Coles, Nancy Dell'Olio, Matt Barbet, Sharron Davies, Mark Foster, Gyles Brandreth and Susan Calman all take part in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)

8.00 The Queen's Birthday Party. A concert in celebration of Her Majesty The Queen's 92nd birthday, live from the Royal Albert Hall, featuring performances from acts from across the world and stars from around the Commonwealth. Tom Jones, Kylie Minogue, Craig David, Anne Marie, Shawn Mendes, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Sting & Shaggy are among those taking part.

9.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. Dermot's pre-marriage nerves get the better of him, so he locks himself away in a cupboard. (R)

10.10 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.30 Match of the Day. Highlights of Saturday's two Premier League fixtures – Watford v Crystal Palace, and West Bromwich Albion v Liverpool.

11.00 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. Dan Walker presents highlights of Manchester United v Tottenham Hotspur in the opening semi-final of this year's competition at Wembley Stadium.

11.20 The Button. Game show set simultaneously in the houses of five UK families, whose members compete to win challenges determined by The Button in the comfort of their living rooms. (R)

11.50 Film: The Recruit. (2003) A hacker is recruited into the CIA and is given a top-secret assignment to root out a mole within the agency's training programme. Thriller, starring Al Pacino and Colin Farrell.

1.40 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.15 David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **6.40** Naomi's Nightmares of Nature. (R) **7.10** The Pets Factor. **7.30** The Dengineers. **8.00** Absolute Genius: Monster Builds. **8.30** Beyond Bionic. **9.00** Robot Wars. (R) **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **12.30** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **1.30** Britain's Biggest Warship. (R) **2.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **3.30** Top of the Shop with Tom Kerridge. (R) **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Money for Nothing. (R)

6.00 Antiques Road Trip. In Liverpool, Natasha Raskin Sharp hopes for a big hit with a Sgt Pepper-style military jacket, while Charles Hanson finds two maritime-themed stained glass panels. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the concluding session on the opening day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first-round match involving Mark Selby is scheduled to conclude, and Ali Carter begins his campaign. Selby is given the honour of being involved in the first fixture of the tournament in his role as reigning champion, and the world number one is aiming to win the title for the fourth time in the last five years.

8.00 The Forest. An engineering team is called out to repair a 6-ton logging machine, while the owner of Balloch O'Dee campsite prepares to stage a comedy night. Mark Bonnar narrates.

8.30 Dad's Army. The vicar and the verger enlist in the Home Guard, but their over-enthusiastic man-management brings the wrath of Warden Hodges down upon the platoon. (R)

9.00 Imagine – Habaneros: You Say You Want a Revolution? Part One. Part one of two. Documentary exploring the lives of Havana residents in the wake of Raul Castro stepping down as president of Cuba, leaving the country facing an uncertain future.

10.00 Film: Testament of Youth. (2014) A young woman gives up her place at Oxford University to be a nurse during the First World War. Period drama, starring Alicia Vikander.

12.00 Snooker: The World Championship. **12.50** Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.50** Civilisations. (R) **3.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Star Wars Freemaker Adventures. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.20 Film:** Nanny McPhee. (2005) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing: Live from Ayr. Including the Coral Scottish Grand National Handicap Steeple Chase at 4.05. **4.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 ITV News; Weather.

6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.

6.30 Ninja Warrior UK. A special celebrity edition of the obstacle-course challenge, with contestants including former Olympic athlete Katharine Merry and Kenzie from Blazin' Squad testing their strength, speed and courage. Those who make it to the end of the adrenaline-fuelled mission face one final task – scaling the heights of a tower named Mount Midoriyama. Hosted by Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara.

7.30 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host the nationwide talent search, which sees a wide variety of acts, from comedians to contortionists, singers to spoon players, compete to impress judges Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden, Alesha Dixon and David Walliams and win a huge cash prize and a coveted slot at the Royal Variety Performance.

9.20 The Keith & Paddy Picture Show. Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness recreate Top Gun, with a little help from Keith Allen, Sarah Parish and Marc Warren.

9.50 ITV News; Weather.

10.10 Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) A society widow enlists in the army in the hope of finding a new direction, but comes into conflict with her tough commanding officer. Comedy, with Goldie Hawn.

12.15 Change Your Tune. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Babushka. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.15 Mobil 1: The Grid. **6.40** Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.20** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.55** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Come Dine with Me. (R) **2.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** The Secret Life of the Zoo. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 The Restoration Man: Best Builds. George Clarke chooses four of his favourite church conversions from the programme, featuring a couple who hoped their old fisherman's church in Devon would bring them together, and a young father whose single-minded dedication to restoring a medieval Welsh chapel almost tore his family apart. Plus, the restoration novices who risked financial ruin to transform a Cumbrian village church's iconic spire, and a couple from Newcastle who battled the elements to create a bohemian artistic retreat 400 miles away in the Outer Hebrides. (R)

8.00 Britain's Most Historic Towns. Alice Roberts explores the Norman period of British history in Winchester. She attempts to storm a castle wearing chain mail and investigates the origins of modern surgery.

9.00 Film: Dirty Grandpa. (2016) Premiere. An uptight lawyer preparing to marry his boss's controlling daughter and secure a prestigious job is persuaded to drive his fun-loving grandfather to Florida. However, the old man is convinced his grandson is about to make a terrible mistake, and turns the road trip into a wildly hedonistic weekend in the hope of inspiring him to get more fun out of life. Comedy, starring Robert De Niro and Zac Efron.

11.00 Film: Colombiana. (2011) An orphan grows up to be an assassin while secretly plotting revenge on the gangsters who murdered her parents. Action thriller, starring Zoe Saldana and Cliff Curtis.

1.00 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.50** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.00** Building the Dream. (R) **4.55** The Question Jury. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.50** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.25** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.10** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.10** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **4.05** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.05** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R)

6.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! High Court enforcement officers Paul, Steve and Ben make a shocking discovery when they break into a home in Essex while serving an eviction notice on a single mother and her two children. Meanwhile, Stewart and Iain receive more than just threats from the staff and owner of a taxi business, a car dealer has to choose between paying up or losing his showroom stars, and an Indian restaurant owner is in danger of losing his livelihood. (R)

7.00 The Yorkshire Vet Casebook. Julian Norton needs to act fast to save a cow with heart failure, a beagle goes through a difficult birth and a hamster arrives for a simple procedure that ends up proving tricky.

8.00 The Dead Sea Treasure Map Mystery. Cameras observe a team of archaeologists following clues from the Copper Scroll, a map that is thought to lead to a treasure haul estimated to be worth $3billion. (R)

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. Colin Murray introduces highlights from the weekend's games in the Championship, including Bolton Wanderers v Wolverhampton Wanderers and Cardiff City v Nottingham Forest.

10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. Colin Murray introduces all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including AFC Wimbledon v Oldham Athletic and Portsmouth v Charlton Athletic.

10.30 World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera. Footage capturing the destruction and chaos caused by severe weather conditions, featuring first-hand accounts from those who have survived such events. (R)

11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Yorkshire Vet. (R) **4.00** Made in Yorkshire. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **8.00** Wild Tales from the Village **9.00** Salamander: Blood Diamonds **10.35** Room 101 **11.05** Plunder: Spike Milligan **11.35** Spike Milligan: Assorted Q **12.35** Atlantic: The Wildest Ocean on Earth **1.35** Wild Tales from the Village **2.35** Room 101 **3.05** Plunder: Spike Milligan **3.35** Close

ITV2
11.25 Britain's Got More Talent **12.25** Ninja Warrior UK **1.30 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **2.30** FYI Daily **2.35 Film:** Liar Liar (1997) **3.15 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20 Film:** Yogi Bear (2010) **4.55 Film:** Casper (1995) **5.55** FYI Daily **6.00 Film:** Casper (1995) **7.00 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05 Film:** The Mummy (1999) **9.20** Britain's Got More Talent **10.20** Celebrity Juice **11.10** Family Guy **12.35** American Dad! **1.30** The Cleveland Show **1.55** Plebs **2.20** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3
11.00 A Touch of Frost **3.20 Film:** Columbo: Forgotten Lady (1975) **4.55** Midsomer Murders **11.05** Vera **1.05** On the Buses **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4
1.50 Film: Bend of the River (1952) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** Bend of the River (1952) **3.45 Film:** Chisum (1970) **4.45** FYI Daily **4.50 Film:** Chisum (1970) **6.05 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **7.05** FYI Daily **7.10 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **9.00 Film:** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Lethal Weapon 4 (1998) **11.25 Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30 Film:** Crank: High Voltage (2009) **1.30** Minder **2.25** The Protectors **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4
11.30 The Goldbergs **2.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Young Sheldon **3.00 Film:** The Net (1995) **5.10** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Red 2 (2013) **11.10** Gogglebox **12.15** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Tattoo Fixers **2.30** Rude Tube **3.25** Gogglebox **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.05** Rude(ish) Tube

Film4
11.00 Support Your Local Sheriff! (1969) **1.00** Dante's Peak (1997) **3.05** The Book of Life (2014) **5.00** Shrek (2001) **6.45** Super 8 (2011) **9.00** Predestination (2014) **10.50** Sinister (2012) **1.00** Grave of the Fireflies (1988) **2.55** Close

Star Reader Travel
Hand picked holidays with you in mind

Your Chronicle in association with Just Go! Holidays

Torquay
& the English Riviera
Departing Monday 28 May
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Coppice Hotel, Torquay
- ✔ Entertainment some nights
- ✔ Cruise on the River Exe
- ✔ Heritage train journey on the South Devon Railway
- ✔ Excursions to Buckfast Abbey, Buckfast Butterfly Farm and Dartmoor Otter Sanctuary & Exmouth

5 Days By Coach — now only £265

Isle of Wight
"Royals & Rails"
Departing Monday 4 Jun
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel and ferry crossings
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Holliers Hotel, Shanklin
- ✔ Entertainment some nights
- ✔ Heritage train journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- ✔ Excursions to Osborne House, Cowes & Ryde

5 Days By Coach — now only £265

Bournemouth
Steam Railway & Monkey World
Departing Monday 25 Jun
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at our selected hotel (all meals buffet style)
- ✔ Excursions to Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway, Monkey World & Poole

5 Days By Coach — now only £275

Northumberland
Holy Island & Alnwick Castle
Departing Sunday 8 Jul
From Dudley, Halesowen & Stourbridge

Price Includes...
- ✔ Return coach travel
- ✔ 4 nights DBB at the Jurys Inn Hotel, Gateshead Quays
- ✔ Guided tour of Hadrian's Wall
- ✔ Excursions to Holy Island of Lindisfarne, Alnwick Castle, Hadrian's Wall & Chesters Fort

5 Days By Coach — now only £295

Coach package holidays are subject to Just Go! Holidays terms and conditions which are based on the Bonded Coach Holiday Group Trading Charter. Tours offered subject to availability. Errors and omissions excepted. Prices shown are per person, based on two people sharing a dbl/twin room. Single supplements apply.

For more information or to book, please call: 03332 341 875 Quote JGRT
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.
or visit us online at justgoholidays.com/RT

SUNDAY'S TV APRIL 22

CHOICE

Ben Hardy

The Woman in White (BBC1, 9pm)
New series. Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher who has a startling encounter on Hampstead Heath with a woman who has escaped from a lunatic asylum. He later takes up a position as a drawing master in Cumbria, but as he falls in love with one of his pupils, he discovers a connection between her family and the strange woman's troubled past. With Charles Dance and Jessie Buckley.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **8.10** MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. (R) **8.30** London Marathon. **2.00** BBC News; Weather. **2.15** Regional Programme. **3.30** Songs of Praise. **4.05** B.O.B.'s Big Break. (R) **4.15 Film:** Madagascar. (2005) Animated comedy, with the voice of Ben Stiller. **5.35** BBC News. **5.50** Regional Programme.

6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. The seven remaining artists are challenged to show off their waterscape painting skills during a visit to Loch Lomond. Firstly, they must paint a boat on the water during a particularly windy day, before creating a panoramic view of the entire lake. They also receive a masterclass on mixing colours before local members of the public choose a favourite to go through to next week's semi-final.

7.00 Countryfile. Anita Rani visits Norfolk to meet people who are keeping traditional English crafts alive. She visits a restored wind pump in Horsey, joins a group of reed cutters on the Norfolk Broads, and meets a man who has made it his mission to restore all of the county's ancient milestones. Finally, she meets a craftsman who makes cricket bats by hand and puts one of his creations to the test.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce presents the show from Castle Howard in Yorkshire, where items brought in to be valued include a rare jade Buddha and a collection of First World War aviation paintings.

9.00 The Woman in White. New series. Adaptation of Wilkie Collins' novel, starring Ben Hardy as a teacher delving into the mysterious and troubled history of a woman who has escaped from an asylum.

10.00 BBC News.

10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of Arsenal v West Ham United and Stoke City v Burnley.

11.30 MOTD: FA Cup Semi-Final Highlights. Reshmin Chowdhury presents highlights of Chelsea v Southampton in the second semi-final of this season's competition at Wembley Stadium.

12.00 The Women's Football Show.
12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead.
12.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **6.35** Countryfile. (R) **7.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **8.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **2.00** London Marathon. Concluding live coverage of the 38th staging of the annual event. **2.30** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The first-round matches involving Shaun Murphy and Ali Carter.

6.00 Nature's Biggest Beasts. The world's biggest beasts have always captured people's imagination. But while being big can have its advantages, it also comes with sizeable challenges. From the Komodo dragon, whose huge appetite means it must take on prey 10 times its weight, to the giraffe, whose long neck must control immense blood pressure, nature's biggest beasts must go to extraordinary lengths to thrive. This film tells just some of these survival stories. (R)

7.00 London Marathon Highlights. JJ Chalmers presents action from the 38th staging of the annual event, which saw tens of thousands of runners take on the famous 26.2-mile course.

8.00 Britain's Biggest Warship. HMS Queen Elizabeth goes on dangerous sea trials for the first time in the North Sea, where every part of the vessel is put to the test and the first aircraft lands on the deck.

9.00 My Year with the Tribe. Will makes his second trip to Indonesia and meets some other members of the Korowai tribe, only to find their lives are not as traditional as they initially appear.

10.00 Famalam. Comedy sketch show.

10.25 That's the Way, A-Ha, A-Ha, Joe Lycett. A performance from the comedian's award-winning live show, recorded at the Duchess Theatre in London's West End.

11.25 Snooker: The World Championship. The evening session on day two at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, featuring the conclusion of first-round matches involving Kyren Wilson and Marco Fu. Jason Mohammad presents.

12.15 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.15** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **3.15** Holby City. (R) **4.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Super 4. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **7.25** The Tom and Jerry Show. (R) **7.30** Teen Titans Go! (R) **7.45** Adventure Time. (R) **8.00** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Love Your Garden. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **10.55** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **11.55** ITV News; Weather. **12.05** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.25** Britain's Got More Talent. (R) **2.25** Britain's Brightest Family. (R) **3.00** The Queen's Green Planet. (R) **4.00** Change Your Tune. **5.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R)

6.00 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving planet Earth from any potential alien invasion. (R)

6.30 ITV News; Weather.

6.45 Regional Programme; Weather.

7.00 Little Big Shots. New series. Dawn French hosts a variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children, including a singing trio and a young dog trainer.

8.00 The Durrells. The family plans a party to celebrate Gerry's birthday, but the occasion is invaded by a swarm of mosquitoes. Louisa worries when Spiros looks himself in a room to sing sad songs.

9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Ruby and Gabriel intervene in a dispute between two fishermen, and Lydia's former mentor asks for her help. Guest starring Sue Johnston (The Royle Family). Last in the series.

10.05 ITV News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (R)

11.20 100 Year Old Driving School. A 91-year-old former teacher attempts to prove she is a good driver. Last in the series. (R)

11.50 This Time Next Year. Davina McCall meets a 45-year-old man who wants to track down his long-lost half-sister and a grandmother who wants to learn to read. (R)

12.40 Jackpot247. **3.00** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.15 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Eat the Week. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55 Film:** Dr Seuss' The Lorax. (2012) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Danny DeVito. **4.35** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.35** Grand Designs. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Dick and Angel only have a few weeks to prepare for their wedding, but the chateau is nowhere near ready to receive the 200 guests they have invited and finding reliable, affordable workers is proving difficult. Dick oversees the damming of the moat and the installation of a new, eco-friendly sewage system, while Angel turns her attention to giving the rooms a distinctive decor. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 The Crystal Maze. Richard Ayoade guides a team of people who met while doing jury service together through the Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Future zones of the Maze, tackling a range of skill, mystery, physical and mental challenges before the final journey to the Crystal Dome.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie is forced to choose a side, Keane needs an ally and Saul comes up with an idea. Espionage drama, starring Claire Danes, Mandy Patinkin, Elizabeth Marvel and Linus Roache.

10.15 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.10 Film: Easy A. (2010) Misfit teenager Olive lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, starring Emma Stone and Penn Badgley.

12.50 Film: Kahaani 2. (2016) Premiere. Crime thriller, starring Vidya Balan. **3.00** KOTV Boxing Weekly. **3.25** Mobil 1: The Grid. (R) **3.50** Come Dine Champion of Champions. A plumber, a lettings agent and a local communications officer battle it out. (R) **4.45** Building the Dream. (R) **5.40** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Puppies. (R) **6.40** Mofy. (R) **6.45** Simon. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **6.55** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.35** Olly the Little White Van. (R) **7.45** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. (R) **8.40** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.20** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.30** Football on 5: The Championship. (R) **11.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **12.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.15 Film:** Dances with Wolves. (1990) Oscar-winning Western, starring Kevin Costner. **5.45 Film:** Pearl Harbor. (2001) Romantic Second World War drama, with Ben Affleck and Kate Beckinsale.

6.45 5 News Update.

6.50 Film: Pearl Harbor. (2001) Concluded.

8.55 5 News Weekend.

9.00 Diana to Meghan: Royal Wedding Secrets. A behind the scenes look at how previous royal weddings, to reveal how these lavish events are organised. Kiri Te Kanawa shares her memories of performing at the wedding of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, while florists, dressmakers, tailors, ring-makers, security guards, vicars and servants all provide the inside scoop on their role in the big day.

10.00 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013) Premiere. A divorced couple attend their adopted son's wedding, and pretend to still be married to avoid shocking his birth mother. Comedy, with Robert De Niro and Diane Keaton.

11.00 5 News Update.

11.05 Film: The Big Wedding. (2013) Concluded.

11.40 Brides Make You Laugh Out Loud. Iain Lee narrates a collection of internet videos featuring weddings. (R)

12.30 Funniest Fails, Falls & Flops. (R) **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Body in the Freezer: Countdown to Murder. (R) **4.00** Tattoo Disasters UK. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R) **5.10** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.35** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Only Connect **7.30** University Challenge **8.00** Sounds of the Seventies **8.10** Natural World **9.00** Imagine – Habeneros: You Say You Want a Revolution? Part Two **10.30** Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor **11.30** Latin Music USA **12.30** Natural World **1.20** How to Be Bohemian with Victoria Coren Mitchell **2.20** Arena: Cigars – Out of the Humidor **3.20** Close

ITV2
11.50 Take Me Out: 10th Anniversary Special **12.50** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.50 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **2.50** FYI Daily **2.55 Film:** The Mummy Returns (2001) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.35** Britain's Got More Talent **6.40 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00 Film:** The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.25 Film:** What If (2013) **1.25** FYI Daily **1.30 Film:** What If (2013) **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV3
11.50 A Touch of Frost **1.50** Agatha Christie's Marple **3.55** Inspector Morse **6.00** Lewis **8.00** The Cruise **9.00** Tommy Cooper Forever **10.00** Tommy Cooper: Not Like That, Like This **12.10** Blue Murder **2.05** Tommy Cooper Forever **2.55** Stephen Fry's Key to the City

ITV4
1.20 Mr Bean **2.25** The Big Fish Off **3.35 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **4.40** FYI Daily **4.45 Film:** The Green Berets (1968) **6.25 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **7.25** FYI Daily **7.30 Film:** The Spy Who Loved Me (1977) **9.00 Film:** Assassins (1995) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10 Film:** Assassins (1995) **11.40 Film:** Safe House (2012) **12.40** FYI Daily **12.45 Film:** Safe House (2012) **1.55** It's Not Rocket Science **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4
1.30 The Big Bang Theory **5.30** Young Sheldon **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.30 Film:** Snow White & the Huntsman (2012) **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.10** The Big Bang Theory **12.10** Tattoo Fixers **1.15** Rude Tube **2.45** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.35** Hollyoaks

Film4
11.00 Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) **1.00** Mirror Mirror (2012) **3.05** Carry On Constable (1960) **4.45** Congo (1995) **6.55** Rise of the Planet of the Apes (2011) **9.00** Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol (2011) **11.35** 3:10 to Yuma (2007) **2.00** Radiator (2014) **3.55** Close

ALAN WARWICK BUTCHERS

2LB SIRLOIN STEAKS £5.00

5 KG FRESH CHICKEN FILLET £19.99

3LB FRESH CHICKEN FILLETS £6.00

3LB MINCED BEEF £5.00

MINI TURKEY BREAST JOINTS (MIN. WEIGHT 475G) 3 FOR £5.00

3LB BONELESS PORK CHOPS £5.00

FREE PARKING AT THE MOOR STREET SHOPPING CENTRE FOR 2 HOURS

Alan Warwick Brierley Hill, Unit 19 Moor Centre, Moor Street, Brierley Hill DY5 3AH 01384 265200

PICK OF THE WEEK

FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Social Nightmare, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A-grade student Catherine Hardy's chances of securing a place at a good college are placed in jeopardy when inappropriate pictures and messages begin to appear on her social network profiles. It quickly becomes clear her accounts have been targeted by a malicious hacker, and she must discover whether the culprit is her boyfriend, a jealous schoolmate competing for a place at the same college, or someone much closer to home. Mystery thriller, starring Kirsten Prout. (2013)

TUESDAY
Secrets of Eden, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A small community is shocked when a local man murders his wife, then kills himself. A detective uncovers evidence of an affair between the dead woman and the town's pastor and begins to suspect he may be implicated in the tragedy. To learn the truth, she must gain the trust of the couple's troubled teenage daughter. Drama, starring John Stamos and Anna Gunn. (2012)

Tropic Thunder, Friday, BBC1, 11.50pm

WEDNESDAY
Profile for Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A criminal profiler retires to live in California with her family and move on from the horrific crime that ended her career. Her idyllic life is shattered when she discovers the serial killer responsible has escaped from prison and is intent on terrorising her. Thriller, starring Nicki Aycox and Steve Bacic. (2013)

THURSDAY
Patricia Cornwell's The Front, Channel 5, 3.15pm
Detective Win Garano is recruited to reinvestigate a decades-old murder, but finds someone is killing all the witnesses. Mystery drama, starring Andie MacDowell and Daniel Sunjata. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2010)

FRIDAY
Tropic Thunder, BBC1, 11.50pm
The cast of a Vietnam War movie unknowingly wanders into the middle of a real-life conflict. Comedy, directed by and starring Ben Stiller, with Jack Black and Robert Downey Jr. (2008)

A Stern lesson awaits Hannah in leaving the family business

Lock all your doors, close the curtains and ignore any bleeps from your mobile – a new Abi Morgan TV project is about to start, so you really don't want to be disturbed.

Cardiff-born Morgan is one of the most gifted scriptwriters around today, whether she's working for the stage or screen.

Plays such as Splendour, Tiny Dynamite and The Mistress Conduct have been acclaimed, but she's gained more recognition for her film work (she wrote the screenplays for The Iron Lady and Shame, among others) and TV (the hugely underrated The Hour and Sex Traffic head her CV).

She's returning to the small screen this week with The Split, her first project for the medium since 2015's River.

"The Split will be an emotional and entertaining exploration of love, marriage and divorce, with Abi bringing her trademark wit, insight and truth to our two brilliant and strong women fighting to try and work out how to survive modern life," says executive producer Jane Featherstone.

At its heart is the rather fraught relationship between three members of the same family – matriarch Ruth and her daughters Hannah, Nina and Rose.

While Rose, the younger sister, is still searching for her place in life and Nina is proving to be a formidable legal eagle, Hannah is a top divorce lawyer who had been working for her family's firm – until Ruth denied her the promotion she felt she deserved, prompting her to take a job with a rival company. Now mother, daughter and sister find themselves locking horns over complex divorce cases rather than collaborating.

"As Robin Williams once said 'Divorce is expensive… like ripping your heart out through your wallet,'" smiles Morgan. "The Split exposes the complex realities of high end divorce and broken marriage through female divorce lawyers and sisters embattled and bound by their own troubled past."

Heading the cast is Nicola Walker, who's best known for her performances in Last Tango in Halifax and Unforgotten, but who also had a supporting role in the aforementioned River. She takes the part of Hannah.

"I'm delighted to be joining the Defoe family and walking in Hannah's shoes as she picks her way through other people's marriages and relationships, all the while questioning her own," claims the star.

Hannah is married to the smart and affable Nathan (Stephen Mangan), and they appear to be well-matched and happy – until her estranged father, who deserted his family 30 years earlier, appears out of the blue, prompting her to question all her male relationships.

To throw a further spanner in the works, Hannah is reconnecting with Christie, 'the one who got away'…

Also included in the cast are Meera Syal and Stephen Tompkinson as former childhood sweethearts Goldie and Davey.

Nicola Walker stars in The Split, Tuesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Holidays Unpacked
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Brits spend about £1,000 each on a week's holiday in the summer sun, with the majority heading to the Mediterranean. But could more fun be had for the same money? In this programme, Morland Sanders and Lucy Hedges road test up-and-coming travel destinations, taking viewers to on-trend destinations on everyday budgets. The first edition sees Lucy visit Israel to explore the desert and float in the Dead Sea, while Morland samples Costa Rica's pristine Pacific beaches and takes a zip-line through the cloud forest.

Fergie vs Wenger: The Feud
Channel 5, 10pm
Channel 5 have issued a warning with this programme - apparently it contains highly offensive language. Oo-er. Those of us of a particularly sensitive nature had better not tune in; then again, would we expect anything else from a football-related programme? Alex Ferguson and Arsene Wenger's rivalry is legendary and went on for years. Ferguson turned Manchester United into the English top flight's dominant force, while Wenger's Arsenal would occasionally nip in to steal their thunder if the Red Devils ever slipped up. Both men had very different approaches to the beautiful game - while one favoured a traditional approach, the other learnt valuable lessons from advances in sports science. Here, those who crossed their paths, including Paul Scholes, Steve McClaren, John Motson and Sol Campbell, offer their views.

TUESDAY
Flight HS13
Channel 4, 11pm
Like so many foreign language series to pop up on Channel 4 these days, this one comes courtesy of the streaming service Walter Presents and the box set of every episode will be available immediately after the first has aired tonight. But, if you prefer to watch dramas the old-fashioned way, fear not because we'll be drip-fed this Dutch thriller here every Tuesday for the next 10 weeks. The plot focuses on happily married Simon and Liv, who appear to have the perfect lives complete with a wonderful son, a beautiful home and successful careers. However, at a family reunion held to mark their offspring's birthday, a surprise guest shakes things up. The next day, Simon leaves for a medical conference in Barcelona - and shortly afterwards, Liv's life is thrown into disarray by the worst possible news.

Holidays Unpacked, Monday, Channel 4, 8pm

WEDNESDAY
Britain's Fat Fight with Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall
BBC1, 9pm
Britain is on track to become the fattest country in Europe by 2025 – unless Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall has his way, that is. In this new series, he'll be trying to find out how obesity became such a problem and what we can do to stop it. That involves investigating some of the UK's biggest food brands and working alongside the GPs and pharmacists who are tackling the problem on the frontlines. But at the heart of the series is a ground-breaking social experiment which sees Hugh challenging the people of Newcastle to lose 100,000lbs over the course of a year. With the help of the city's council, he'll be encouraging the locals to make changes to their diet and get involved in physical activities, but can they collectively reach the ambitious target?

THURSDAY
The Truth About Obesity
BBC1, 8pm
Nearly one in four people in the UK qualifies as being obese, meaning their weight is significantly affecting the state of their health. Presenter Chris Bavin seeks out the latest research into obesity and the problems that are being passed down to future generations. He finds out what it means to be obese, what it does to the body and looks at the most up-to-date solutions available. He also reveals how viewers can test themselves with a simple piece of string to find out if they have the most damaging type of fat.

FRIDAY
Our Wildest Dreams
Channel 4, 8pm
New series. Ex-executive Mari leaves south-east London for a new life in Ecuador, hoping the move with her native husband and their young daughter will bring her family closer.

HIMLEY Fencing
Sheds Available Also Shed Refelts
Prices start from £60.00 per bay
Includes: Heavy duty concrete post
• Gravel Board
• FREE no obligation quotes
• Fully Insured • Three year warranty
Call 07871 793 677 or 01384 863284

THE SHED SHOP
Established 27 Years
6ft x 4ft T&G Sheds from £240
Concrete slotted post now at £9
Concrete gravel boards now £9
6ft x 5ft overlap heavy duty fence panels £15
Railwasy Sleepers £16
Continental Panels in stock
Post mix 20kg bags £4.50
A wide range of fence panels available
All Products for immediate delivery
Public & Trade Welcome
Special Offers Also Available
01384 482 542 / 07920 885 774
www.dudleyshedshop.co.uk

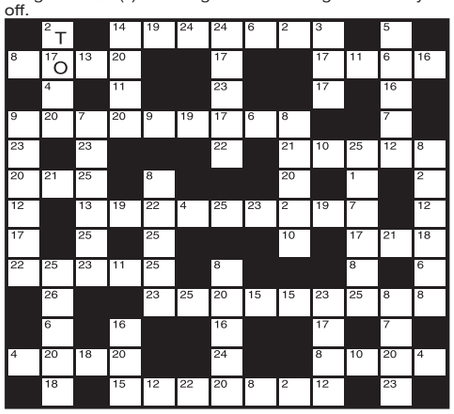
BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS
WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO
1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?
CALL 01902 319730
Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising
MNA DIGITAL

BRAIN GYM

No.476

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2 T	15
3	16
4	17 O
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
T	R	O	D	N	B	A	P	K	G	Z	H	Y
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	M	F	S	X	I	E	W	U	L	V	C	J

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

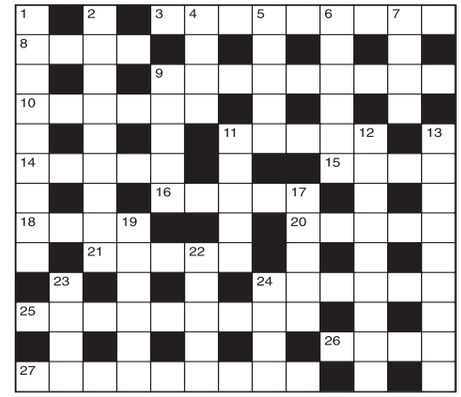
Cryptic Clues:

Across

3. Plenty in favour of a merger (9)
8. Dash from Iceland (4)
9. Sluggard making little progress with a tutor (9)
10. Class a number as precise (6)
11. Almost rate as fools (5)
14. Rob with a gun (5)
15. Absorbed with a new part (4)
16. Wounds in a most absent-minded way (5)
18. A vessel that has been taken out of the water (4)
20. Acted strangely for a Service trainee (5)
21. Stretch - of river? (5)
24. Others acquire their habits from him (6)
25. Went to pieces when praised (7,2)
26. Norwegians live in what was Czechoslovakia (4)
27. Pay a visit after some persuasion? (4,5)

Down

1. Man of action, in his turn (9)
2. Not a bad bid for the roundabouts? (4,5)
4. List a waiter may be asked for (4)
5. Colours and becomes servile (5)
6. Rather earlier (6)
7. Not often seen in London certainly! (4)
9. These are sure to be brisk for beer on board (5)
11. Partly under water from waves caused by a passing vessel (5)
12. Old-timer (9)
13. Specify space available for a first-class passenger (9)
17. Throw away a fight? (5)
19. Possibly secure and free from danger (6)
22. Communist firm about belief (5)
23. After hesitation leave thus (4)
24. A diverting act? (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

3. Declaration (9)
8. Shape (4)
9. Liveliness (9)
10. Vigour (6)
11. Pondered (5)
14. Chop finely (5)
15. Tear (4)
16. Occurrence (5)
18. Fling (4)
20. Get up (5)
21. Compass (5)
24. Claim (6)
25. Detour (9)
26. Signify (4)
27. The accused (9)

Down

1. Consequences (9)
2. Immaturity (9)
4. Small (4)
5. Time (5)
6. Affair (6)
7. Mid-day (4)
9. Concur (5)
11. Bit (5)
12. Devoted (9)
13. Retainer (9)
17. Seized (5)
19. Plan (6)
22. Sat for picture (5)
23. Conceal (4)
24. In adversity (4)

Sudoku

4					9			7
		3		6		5		1
	7		5		1		4	
9		8						
	2			3	4		9	
				7		4		6
	8		1		6		5	
	6	4		5		7		
2			7			6		8

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2	7	3	8	6	9	5	1	4
6	5	9	3	1	4	8	7	2
1	8	4	2	5	7	6	3	9
5	1	7	9	8	3	4	2	6
9	6	2	5	4	1	7	8	3
3	4	8	6	7	2	1	9	5
7	3	5	4	2	8	9	6	1
8	2	6	1	9	5	3	4	7
4	9	1	7	3	6	2	5	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Cold; 3 Educator; 8 Neon; 9 Returned; 11 Poor relation; 13 Rating; 14 Grocer; 17 Prison record; 20 Primates; 21 Zinc; 22 Speedier; 23 Aged. Down: 1 Conspire; 2 Look out; 4 Dwells; 5 Court order; 6 Tango; 7 Ride; 10 Grandstand; 12 Produced; 15 Crowing; 16 Inhere; 18 Raise; 19 Opus.
QUICK - Across: 1 Pact; 3 Dampness; 8 Real; 9 Predator; 11 Embarrassing; 13 Strict; 14 Proper; 17 Evil speaking; 20 Extended; 21 Maze; 22 Besieged; 23 Less. Down: 1 Perverse; 2 Chamber; 4 Airman; 5 Pedestrian; 6 Eaten; 7 Sure; 10 Truculence; 12 Progress; 15 Private; 16 Sphere; 18 Votes; 19 Herb.

Quiz

1. Who played Fred's mother-in-law in the 1994 live action film The Flintstones?
2. In which country did King Farouk abdicate in 1952?
3. Which Beatles song was covered by 1,186 performers in its first seven years?
4. What type of animal is the blackcap?
5. On which Scottish island was John Smith buried?
6. On what date does Epiphany fall?
7. Which artform uses labanotation?
8. Which food sustained the Israelites in the wilderness?
9. In which country is Doi Inthanon the highest mountain?
10. In which year was the Suez Crisis?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Nelson Mandela; 2 The New Yorker; 3 A snake; 4 Rhine; 5 1978; 6 Hansard; 7 The Spanish Armada Medal; 8 Sir Compton Mackenzie; 9 Chile; 10 Marshal.

Niner: ALCHEMIST

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

16345276 gives a small animal,
1278 gives a second small animal,
9537 gives small particles.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Girlie lunch just in the Nick of time

OH, to be ladies what lunch. My friend and I lived our improbable dream with a lunch date at the swanky Harvey Nichols Restaurant in The Mailbox.

Just to give you a bit of background, I met said friend at a pregnancy yoga class. In our pre-child naivety, we thought our maternity year would be littered with lunches together; elegant affairs in which we'd sip Prosecco and nibble chiccetti-style plates while spooning Ella's Kitchen mush into the mouths of our contended babes, who absolutely weren't demanding Peppa Pig on YouTube.

How wrong we were. I seem to remember our only 'lunch date' was a rather fraught hour spent with our little ones in Nando's, ending in us both exhausted and apologising to waiting staff for the amount of debris under the table. Hardly what we'd envisaged.

Burger and fries – but not as you know it

Art Deco appeal – sophisticated dining

FRAUGHT

So on a child-free, work-free Thursday we ventured into town for a day of shopping and lunching, with the possibility of a swim afterwards. We felt just like the happy-go-lucky teenagers we once were, but with more than a bus pass, a cute boy's phone number (home landline, obvs) and a fiver in our pockets.

After a morning mooching round the shops we headed to Harvey Nicks for a spot of lunch. It's a sophisticated venue which feels very grown-up, ideal for boozy brunches, lunches, afternoon teas and cocktail-soaked dinners with friends. An Art Deco-inspired space, it has a beautiful buffed parquet floor, and on-trend use of gold, leather and pastel pink and green.

On this occasion the restaurant was quiet and we had the pick of the tables even though I'd made a booking on the website. As we moved on to the wine the 'possibility' of going swimming afterwards was becoming probably impossible. Oh well. She ordered a glass of Sauvignon Blanc while I pushed the boat out with a £10 glass of Sancerre. It was delicious, golden nectar and went straight to my head.

When Harvey Nicks relaunched in the Mailbox a few years ago, the restaurant menu was curated by Yummy Brummie Michelin star chef Glynn Purnell. However, recently Stewart Mackie has taken over as head chef and – similarly to before – the menu is packed with temptation; choices include salads, risottos, and burgers. There are a couple of steaks on offer for hungry carnivores, and a reasonably-priced special menu offers three courses for £22.

My friend chose the risotto topped with halloumi and aubergine, while I chose the sweet potato and chickpea tagine with grilled courgette.

Our food arrived and looked delish. Light-headed from the wine, I eagerly tucked into my tagine. The veg were well cooked, not overly soft however, the dish as a whole was a bit bland.

My friend said her comforting bowl of risotto was lovely and creamy with just the right amount of bite.

For dessertI chose the sticky toffee pud and vanilla ice cream for which I'm sure I'd need to swim an entire ocean to burn off its calorie content. The giant wedge of airy sponge was as wicked as I expected.

Meanwhile, my friend opted for the peanut butter cheesecake with popcorn and blackberries. She polished off the lot and didn't offer me any so it must have been good.

The bill, including service, came to just over £70. reasonable for such an agreeable lunch. An adult day out, just in the Nick of time! EMILY BRIDGEWATER

hallsgb.com

Halls

"KIDDERMINSTER MACHINERY SALE"

STANKLYN LANE, NR. KIDDERMINSTER, WORCS, DY10 4AR

Entries to date include:-

Tractors, Cultivation Equipment, Silaging/Haymaking Equipment, Vehicles, Trailers, Livestock Handling Equipment, Agricultural Gates & Fencing, Agricultural Spares & Sundries.

Large Quantity of Timber, Building Materials, Insulation, Scaffolding, Steel, Slabs, Garden Furniture, Lawn Mowers, Garden Equipment, New Tools, Workshop Tools, Spares & Sundries.

SALE DAY: FRIDAY 27th APRIL 2018
SALE COMMENCES AT 10:15 AM
Please call 01562 820880

Catalogues: hallsgb.com/auctions

Buy and sell with ClassifiedAds

1 Visit our ClassifiedAds website
classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2 Call our Classified sales team on 01902 317 878

3 Self Serve - Create your own advert in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL

Brought to you by Express & Star

Ford's Focus has been given a major makeover for 2018

The car has been built through closer collaboration with its customers

By James Parker

Ford has pulled the covers off the new Ford Focus – the fourth generation of one of the most popular family cars on sale today.

The Blue Oval says this model has been built through closer collaboration with its customers than ever, and the result is a more spacious cabin with better materials and build quality.

The new Focus gets a wider range of driver assistance technologies too, including adaptive cruise control that can adjust the car's speed to the posted limit by reading signs, fully automated parking and an evasive steering assistant that helps drivers avoid potential collisions.

Its silhouette is true to the outgoing Focus model, but there are plenty of design changes that differentiate this as a new model, such as a redesigned front end with a longer bonnet, new LED lighting both front and rear, and split tail lights.

It's also built on Ford's new C2 vehicle platform, which the firm says improves cabin space, exterior aerodynamics and fuel efficiency.

In addition, Ford is offering a wide range of body styles and trim levels for the Focus range, similar to what we've seen with the new Fiesta. There's the high-spec Vignale, sporty ST-Line and style-conscious Titanium.

Ford is offering a wide variety of body styles and trim levels for the range

For the first time in the Focus range, Ford is offering an Active model, which has elevated ground clearance, rugged black plastic wheel arch mouldings and skid plates for crossover-esque style as well as some off-road ability.

There is a variety of petrol and diesel engine variations available. Petrol buyers can choose from a 1.0-litre three-cylinder unit with 84bhp, 99bhp or 123bhp, while diesel is available as a 1.5-litre unit making 95bhp or 118bhp. All outputs are available with a six-speed manual transmission, while the 118bhp diesel can be had with an eight-speed automatic.

Joe Bakaj, Ford's vice-president of European product development, said: "Our all-new Ford Focus is the pinnacle of technology and driving appeal in its segment.

"The chance to build a completely new car from a fresh piece of paper does not come around often. We grabbed it with both hands, to develop the best mid-size family car that money can buy."

Prices start at £17,930 for the entry-level Style model, which makes it less expensive than the outgoing model, which starts at £18,120 even with a promotional offer that's running at the moment.

The sportier ST-Line model starts at £21,570 and includes 17-inch alloy wheels, a body kit and sports-tuned suspension.

The Focus has been one of the most popular cars sold in the UK in recent years. Ford says it has sold nearly seven million in Europe since it was introduced in 1998, a third of which have been in the UK.

It has sold more than 15,000 already in 2018, making it the fourth best-selling car in the UK despite being due a refresh. It was the third best-selling model in 2017, shifting nearly 70,000 units.

SCORCHING OFFERS AT T WALL VAUXHALL
** YOU GET IT ALL AT T WALL **

MANAGERS SPECIALS

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
14 64	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 3DR RED N ROLL 7,100 MILES	£7195	£6495	£700
13 63	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 5DR ASTEROID GREY 38,000 MILES	£6195	£5595	£600
15 15	**NEW CORSA STING 1.0TURBO** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 22,800 MILES STUNNING!	£7195	£6695	£500
15 15	**CORSA SE 1.4 5DR SOVEREIGN** SILVER 36,100 MILES	£7295	£6695	£600
15 65	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.6CDTI** CARBON FLASH 11,500 MILES	£10795	£10395	£400
16 66	**ASTRA ELITE 1.6CDTI** 136PS SPORTS TOURER 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 14,000 MILES	£13995	£13495	£500
17 17	**ADAM ENERGISED 1.2** LET IT BLUE DELIVERY MILES 29 ONLY!	£9995	£9495	£500
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR SUMMIT** WHITE DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9395	£500
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR CARBON** FLASH DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9495	£400
17 67	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4 5DR SOVEREIGN** SILVER DELIVERY MILES	£9895	£9495	£400

VIVA AND ADAM

15 15	**VIVA SE 1.0** 5DR BLUE RAY ONLY 7,600 MILES		£6995	
16 66	**VIVA SL 1.0** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 1,300 MILES ONLY		£7795	
15 15	**ADAM JAM 1.2** 3DR LET IT BLUE 12,500 MILES		£7795	
15 65	**ADAM GLAM 1.4** 3DR PURPLE FICTION 19,600 MILES TECH PACK	£8995	£8795	£200
15 65	**ADAM SLAM 1.4** 3DR RED N ROLL 18,200 MILES		£9295	
16 66	**ADAM ENERGISED 1.2** RED N ROLL 6,500 MILES		£9495	
15 15	**ADAM GRAND SLAM 1.4T** GREY/RED ROOF 20,900 MILES STUNNING!		£9995	

CORSA

12 62	**CORSA ACTIVE 1.4** 3DR ASTEROID GREY ONLY 28,500 MILES		£5995	
14 14	**CORSA S 1.2** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 28,600 MILES		£5995	
14 63	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE ONLY 14,700 MILES	£6495	£6250	£245
13 63	**CORSA LTD EDN** 1.2 3DR FLAME RED 25,200 MILES	£6995	£6595	£400
14 64	**CORSA EXCITE 1.4** 5DR DEEP SKY BLUE 27,300 MILES		£6695	
14 14	**CORSA SXI 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 43,700 MILES	£6995	£6795	£200
14 64	**CORSA LTD EDN 1.2** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 37,200 MILES		£6995	
15 15	**NEW CORSA LIFE 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED 23,100 MILES		£6995	
14 14	**CORSA LTD EDN 1.2** 3DR FLAME RED 40,200 MILES	£7295	£6795	£500
1414	**CORSA LTD BLACK EDN 1.4**TURBO 3DR BLACK 9,000 MILES		£7795	
15 15	**CORSA SE 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 36,100 MILES	£7495	£7295	£200
14 64	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4**TURBO 5DR WATERWORLD BLUE 8,300 MILES	£7995	£7695	£300
15 15	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE 15,000 MILES		£7895	
15 15	**NEW CORSA EXCITE 1.4 90** 3DR FLAME RED 10,000 MILES		£7995	
16 16	**NEWCORSA ENERGY 1.4 90** 5DR FLAME RED 13,000 MILES		£8995	
15 15	**NEWCORSA LTD EDN 1.4** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 31,300 MILES		£8495	
15 15	**NEWCORSA DESIGN 1.4** AUTOMATIC 5DR ONLY 12,500 MILES	£9495	£9295	£20
16 16	**NEW CORSA LTD EDN 1.4** 3DR OLYMPIC WHITE ONLY 2,500 MILES		£9495	
16 16	**NEW CORSA LIMITED EDITION 1.4** 3DR CARBON FLASH 7,600 MILES		£8695	
16 16	**NEW CORSA VXR 1.6T** 3DR LIME GREEN 7,100 MILES		£12995	

ASTRA, MERIVA & ZAFIRA

		WAS	NOW	SAVE
08 58	**ASTRA SRI 1.9CDTI** AUTO 5DR STAR SILVER 53,500 MILES		£3795	
10 10	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.6** AUTO 5DR DEEPSKY BLUE 52,500 MILES		£5295	
12 12	**ASTRA SRI 1.4** 5DR TECHNICAL GREY 35,000 MILES		£5995	
13 13	**ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 46,000 MILES	£6495	£6195	£300
15 65	**ASTRA LTD EDN 1.4**TURBO OLYMPIC WHITE 17,300 MILES		£9995	
16 65	**ASTRA GTC LTD EDN 1.4T** 3DR SUMMIT WHITE 13,800 MILES		£11995	
16 66	**ASTRA SRI NAV 1.6CDTI** 136ps 5DR POWER RED 12,800 MILES EX DEMO	£13995	£13495	£500
17 17	**ASTRA LIMITED GTC** 3DR SUMMIT WHITE 12,500 MILES LEATHER SAT/NAV		£14995	
11 11	**MERIVA SE 1.4T** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 55,500 MILES		£4995	
11 11	**MERIVA SE 1.4** 5DR SILVER LIGHTNING 40,000 MILES		£5495	
15 15	**MERIVA LIFE 1.4** 5DR OLYMPIC WHITE 16,500 MILES	£7795	£7295	£500
15 65	**MERIVA EXCLUSIV 1.4** AUTO SOVEREIGN SILVER 20,000 MILES		£9695	
15 15	**ZAFIRA TOURER TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** OLYMPIC WHITE 47,300 MILES		£9995	
16 66	ZAFIRA TOURER TECHLINE 1.6CDTI SOVEREIGN SILVER 13,500 MILES EX DEMO		£15495	

MOKKA, MOKKA X & ANTARA

14 14	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.7CDTI** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 44,600 MILES		£9995	
14 64	**MOKKA EXCLUSIV 1.4T** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 27,200 MILES		£10495	
15 65	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6** 5DR SUMMIT WHITE 9,700 MILES		£11695	
15 65	**MOKKA TECHLINE 1.6CDTI** ORANGE ROCK 13,700 MILES		£11995	
15 15	**MOKKA SE 1.7CDTI** AUTOMATIC ASTEROID GREY 16,000 MILES		£11995	
17 17	**MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T** BORACAY BLUE 12,300 MILES		£15995	
17 17	**MOKKA X ELITE NAV 1.4T** QUANTUM GREY 13,950 MILES		£15795	
16 65	**ANTARA SE NAV 2.2CDTI** 4X4 SUMMIT WHITE 23,500 MILES		£12995	
16 16	**ANTARA DIAMOND 2.2CDTI** 163ps 5DR CARBON FLASH 26,950 MILES		£10695	

INSIGNIA

14 64	**INSIGNIA TECHLINE 2.0CDTI** 5DR SOVEREIGN SILVER 25,400 MILES PLUS PACK		£10495	
16 16	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI** 5DR SILVER LAKE 36,800 MILES		£10995	
15 15	**INSIGNIA SRI NAV 2.0CDTI** 5DR SILVER LAKE 22,000 MILES		£11495	

OTHER FRANCHISES

11 61	**FORD FOCUS SPORT 1.6TDCI** 5DR WHITE 37,000 MILES		£5695	
13 63	**PEUGEOT 208 ACTIVE 1.4HDI** 5DR STAR SILVER 43,500		£6695	
12 62	**FORD FOCUS ZETEC S 1.0**TURBO 26,500 MILES		£7495	
16 16	**SUZUKI SWIFT SZ-L SAT NAV 1.2** 3DR RED 23,800 MILES		£8495	
15 65	**FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.25** 5DR RED 15,000 MILES		£8495	
17 66	**KIA PICANTO SE 1.0** 5DR MET BLACK 2,300 MILES		£8995	
12 12	**MINI COUNTRYMAN COOPER 1.6D** 5DR WHITE/BLACK 42,200 MILES		£9495	
13 13	**MINI COOPER ROADSTER 1.6** MET BLACK 31,500 MILES		£9495	
16 16	**CITROEN C4 CACTUS FLAIR 1.6HDI** SAT NAV RED 24,000 MILES	£10295	£9995	£300
16 16	**HYUNDAI IX20 SE 1.4** BLUE DRIVE 5DR WHITE 8,200 MILES		£10695	
11 61	**LR RANGE ROVER EVOQUE DYNAMIC** SI4 AUTO 4WD 3DR WHITE/BLACK 55,200 MILES	£21989	£21495	£494

VANS ALL PLUS VAT UNLES STATED

15 15	**FORD TRANSIT CONNECT 200 L1 TREND 1.6TDCi** 115PS METALLIC BLACK 18,750 MILES		£9995	
17 17	**VAUXHALL COMBO L2 H1 SPORTIVE 1.3CDTI** RUBY RED 9,000 MILES (OUR PARTS VAN)		£10995	
17 67	**VAUXHALL VIVARO SPORTIVE L2 H1 1.6CDTI** WHITE		£14995	

T Wall Garages
01384 288333
www.twall.co.uk

High Street, Pensnett
Kingswinford
DY6 8XB

Award winning family-run business – established 1953
1 Mile from Russells Hall, Hospital, towards Kingswinford

VAUXHALL

Stourbridge Chronicle Thursday, April 19, 2018

Performer and grown up family car

By John Griffiths

SEAT's latest Ibiza has won a lot of friends for its lively yet economical performance and dynamic handling.

It was runner-up in this year's European Car of the Year awards, having already won the best small car title in the UK.

Most are powered by the VW Group's acclaimed three cylinder, turbocharged 1.0 litre engine but it's the car's taut chassis and direct steering which make it both fun and safe to drive that set it apart. But this is SEAT, the sporting marque of the VW Group, so of course there's going to be a more powerful and quicker option – the 1.5TSi Evo.

This 150Ps, four cylinder engine, is only available in FR trim and is the performance flagship of the model range – until the much anticipated Cupra version is unveiled, anyway.

At £17,680 it's also the most expensive Ibiza in the range, of course, and like the others comes in five-door format only.

With a 0 to 62mph sprint time of under eight seconds and improved in-gear acceleration, this warm Ibiza adds an extra sporting dimension in appearance and substance to the Ibiza range, without adding too significantly to running costs.

It will still average up to 57.6mpg (official figures) with a relatively low CO2 rating of 112g/km. During my time with the car I averaged between 43 and 50.1mpg, as always dictated by roads and traffic conditions.

That official fuel figure, by the way, is exactly the same as the cheapest Ibiza, with its non-turbo engine and half the power (75PS) which takes 14.7 seconds for the 0 to 62mph dash. It's in the same VED band, too.

The 1.0, 115PS turbo versions are naturally better in both departments.

The dash and instrument panel are clean

Like all new Ibizas, the FR comfortably seats four adults (five at a pinch) with plenty of head and leg room for taller adults in the rear.

The new generation Ibiza is significantly wider than its predecessor, and has more luggage space too – up by 63 litres to 355 litres with all the seats in place, putting itin contention with many cars in the class above supermini. A longer wheelbase has helped the engineers free up more useable space in the cabin, adding to the upmarket feel of the car.

Black alcantara upholstery with contrasting stitching replaced the standard seat material (a £365 extra) but the gloss black inserts in the dash, bright metal trim and the leather sports steering wheel are all standard.

The dash and instrument panel is very clean, almost minimalist with many audio, connectivity, navigation and other functions controlled via a central colour touchscreen or with buttons on the steering wheel.

The ride is sportily firm, but sufficiently well damped to insulate you from the worst of the craters left behind by the Beast from the East and its successors. It's a good balance to avoid the sort of jiggly ride often a feature of small and light sporty cars of old, which worked perfectly well on smooth, race track-like surfaces but rather less public roads.

The new generation Ibiza is significantly wider than its predecessor, and has more luggage space too

The standard FR has 17-inch alloy wheels, but the test car was fitted with 18-inch wheels and low profile 215/40 tyres which no doubt had some effect on the ride.

The steering is light and communicative, adding to the rewarding (and fun!) character of the Ibiza whether you're pressing on along windy country roads or cruising more sedately. The new platform has a 30 per cent increase in torsional stiffness, together with a lighter but rigidbody – two more factors which aid refinement while also contributing to its claim that it's the best handling Ibiza yet.

It's also a quiet car, the turbo endowing it with 250Nm of torque (a lot for a small car) from just 1,500rpm, so progress up through the gears and during motorway cruising is effortless – it feels like a much large capacity engine is under the bonnet but without the fuel penalty.

You have to apply a fairly firm right foot to raise the engine note above a whisper: it's worth it for the rather pleasant rasp from the big-bore exhausts but not for fuel economy.

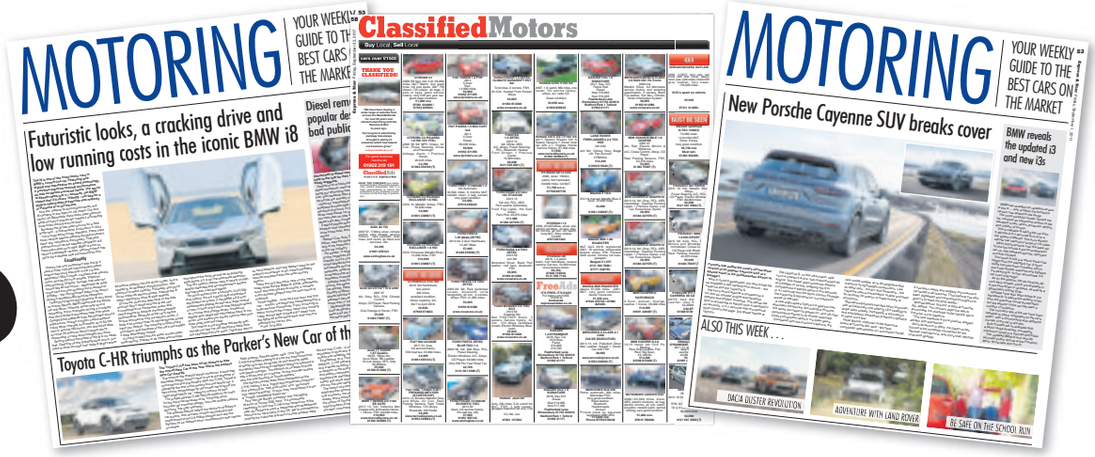
Stopping power is prodigious, with disc brakes all round and the usual electronic aids such as ABS. The FR comes with lots of new technology inside, too, including SEAT's latest multimedia system including smartphone link.

The FR, fitted with this 150Ps engine, exploits the impressive abilities of the new chassis and body to perfection, resulting in a car that's both a performer and a grown-up, relaxing family transport at the same time. It's this balance of abilities which sets the FR apart, bringing a 'big' car ambience to the supermini sector without detracting from its agility on the open road or its handy nature around town.

EVERY FRIDAY!

MNA

New Car?



NEW CAR OFFERS

USED CAR DEALS

PRIVATE AND FROM THE TRADE!

NEW CAR REVIEWS & ROAD TESTS

MOTORING

Express & Star

Local Specialists

Aerials

MATT WALTERS DIGITAL AERIALS
your LOCAL Aerial/Satellite specialist
Aerials - Satellite Dishes Fitted From £65
ANY LIKE FOR LIKE
QUOTATION BEATEN
Senior Citizen Discounts
2 Year Guarantee
Digital Aerials/Freeview/Freesat
SKY HD/ SKY+/MULTIROOM
SKY Q specialist
• Free Quotation • Repairs • Free Call Out
• Same Day service • Freeview Specialist
£10 OFF ON PRODUCTION OF THIS ADVERT
Mobile: 07853 253176

Alarms

METRO ALARMS AND SECURITY
CCTV SYSTEMS
accessed via phones and tablets
NEW PROFESSIONAL WIRELESS SYSTEM
No Mess! Simple to use Remote Controlled
• Burgler Alarm Repairs
• Home Alarm Installation
• Upgrades Close Circuit TV
• 30 Years Experience • Video Entry Systems
• Alarms Serviced From £30
Free Quotes & Advice
01384 350 687
07904 317 150
(Any Time)
www.metro-alarms.co.uk

Blinds & Curtains

Blinds4Less
Choose From a fantastic range!
-Pleated -Venetians
-Romans -Curtains
-Verticals -Awnings
-Rollers -Shutters
New range of Chainless Verticals and Night and Day Rollers
Give us a try before you buy!
Contact us on
01384 886162
and 07989 588728
Blinds4lessdirect.com

Carpentry

DAVID ADAMS CARPENTRY
Doors, loft conversions, laminate flooring, UPVC windows & doors
FREE QUOTATIONS
30 years experience
0121 602 1450
07885 417812

Builders

C ETHERIDGE BUILDING SERVICES
• Extensions
• Alterations
• Roofing
• Landscaping
• Block paving
• General property maintenance.
Over 35yrs experience
For a FREE quote call Chris
01384 635627
07989 738732

Decorating

JOHN MORRIS
Interior & Exterior Decorating
Artexing & Coving
Over 35 years experience
FREE ESTIMATES
01384 349 375
07710 133 445

PAINTER & DECORATOR
Professional and reliable
Fully insured
O.A.P Discounts
For a free quote call Carl
0121 561 1881
or 07532 200591

Double Glazing

MISTY UNITS REPLACED
Buy Direct from the manufacturer. Est. 1999
Reduce heat loss by up to 75%
Also upgrade your existing double glazed units to Pilkington Energikare, it will help to reduce the amount of heat lost through your windows by up to 75%, lock, handles, hinges.
WITH A 10 YEAR GUARANTEE AND FITTING SERVICE AVAILABLE
HIGH SECURITY DOOR BARRELS NOW BEING FITTED
WE HAVE A NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
01384 918383
Delph Glazed Units
Unit 32 Delph Rd Ind Est (by the tank), Brierley Hill DY5 2UA
Visit our new website
www.delphglazedunits.co.uk
Mobile: 07887 520599

Misted Sealed Units?
Black Country Glazing
Contact US for a FREE quote!
Manufacturers & Installers of windows, doors & conservatories
'A' Rated Windows as Standard
10 YEAR GUARANTEE
Please see our customer reviews on either Homepro or Which
"Energy efficient windows that won't cost the earth"
Station Street, Cradley Heath, B64 6AJ
Est 1987
01384 566100
www.blackcountryglazing.com
FENSA

Driveways

DISCOUNT DRIVEWAYS
Block Paving and Tarmac
Drives • Red Tarmac
Car Parks • Resurfacing
5 Year Guarantee
On All Work
Free Quotations and Advice
Cheekatrade
Tel: 01384 79900 • 07583 170190
www.discountdriveways.co.uk

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Electricians

REWIRING EXPERTS.co.uk
All domestic and commercial electrical works undertaken
Home rewiring from £800
For a high quality local service call:
01384 660398
07939 503905

Electricians

BRADLEY ELECTRICAL & MAINTENANCE
Est 1987
All electrical work undertaken
Fully qualified & insured
Installation Condition Reports
No job too small
★ FREE ESTIMATES ★
Electrical Safety Register
ECA
Call Paul 01384 344589 or 07812 435833
www.bradleyelectrical.net

R&D ELECTRICS
All Domestic Electrical work including Alarms
N.I.C.E.I.C. Registered
FREE QUOTES
Call Ron on:
07773 645854
or 01384 422182

Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

Roberts Guttering Services
20% Discount
Local Specialists
Dry Verge Units Fitted
For All aspects of cleaning & repair call Robert for a FREE quote on
07767869792
We Fit UPVC Soffits & Fascias

Fencing

Fencing & Gates
All Garden Work Undertaken
• Slabbing • Block Paving • Tree Felling
• Turfing • Garden Clearance
NO JOB TOO SMALL
Manufacturers of all Concrete Products eg. Concrete Posts, Gravel Boards
All work guaranteed Insurance work undertaken
Over 15 years experience (Public liability covered)
Call Steve on
01384 242891 or 07970 300586

Landscapers

CARDINAL LANDSCAPES
West Midlands
Specialists in Patios, Driveways, Paths, Fencing, Turfing, Decking and Landscaping
Call now for a FREE QUOTE
01902 562600 or
07539 887144

Garage Doors

GARADOR - CARDALE - SELECT - WESSEX - HENDERSON - HORMANN
SECTIONALS - UP & OVERS - SIDE-HINGED - ROLLERS - MOTORISED
RELIADOR GARAGE DOORS
SALES - INSTALLATION - REPAIRS
SAME DAY SERVICE
01384 386909
07858 299305
NO FIX NO FEE!
www.reliador.co.uk - reliadorgd@gmail.com
CALL US NOW FOR A FREE QUOTE

Gardening

ROWAN TREE AND GARDEN SERVICES
• Tree Surgeon Specialist • Jungles Cleared/Full Landscapes
• Hedges Pruned/Shaped • Stump Grinding/Root Removal
• Fencing • Turfing • Concreting • Driveways & Patios
• Plus Much More Call Now For a No Obligation quotation
WWW.ROWANGROUP.CO.UK
01384 213644 or
07733 226568
AGE CONCERN & Local Authority Contractor, N.P.T.C. qualified, Public Liability Insurance (£5 million)
All staff C.R.B. Certified

R.A. GARDEN SERVICES
Established 24 years
Gardening & Landscaping Services
Including: • Tree Lopping • Hedge Cutting
• Lawn Mowing • Fencing & Slabbing
• Low Maintenance Landscaping • Gardens Cleared
FULLY INSURED • OAP DISCOUNTS
FOR FREE QUOTE CALL:
07970 876 638 • 01384 569 148
www.ragardenservices.net

SEDGLEY TREE CARE
Professional Tree Surgeon
All aspects of tree work undertaken
• CONTRACT TREE CLIMBER
• TREE REMOVAL
• CROWN REDUCTION
• STUMP GRINDING
• HEDGE TRIMMING
• GARDEN CLEARANCES
ALL WASTE REMOVED
NPTC QUALIFIED
07746813358 or
01902 659692
FOR A FREE QUOTE

EXPERIENCED GARDENER RELIABLE AND
Looking for full / part time work
PETROL MOWERS/ STRIMMERS SERVICES
FROM £50
References Available
No job too small, Give me a call
PRH GARDEN & MAINTENANCE
Call Peter
07746 195172
01384 821105

Gutter Cleaning

Gutter Cleaning
Special Offer £40 per property
Call 07541 928 598
Are they blocked? Full of dirt, leaves and moss?
Are they overflowing when it rains?
Avoid costly repair Bills No mess No risk No Fuss

Local Specialists

Loft Ladders

The Loft Ladder Man
Loft Ladders fitted from £120 inclusive
New or enlarged hatches
T & G Flooring, Lighting
Call Luke on
07779 118807 or
01384 833025
lukejs248@gmail.com
We will beat any like for like quote
like our brand new facebook page @ theloftladderman
Fully Insured

Rubbish Removal

A.J.B. Waste Management
Try us for a FREE no obligation quotation
FOR A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 6 DAYS
Small jobs NOT A PROBLEM
We load, No Skips, Free quotation
GARDEN, HOUSEHOLD, SHED, GARAGE,
WHITE GOODS, HOUSE CLEARANCES FURNITURE.
You can also bring your own waste
to our fully licensed transfer station
CALL TODAY AND LETS TALK RUBBISH
Tel 0121 520 7731

Roofing

ROOFING SERVICES
One of the Leading Roofing Companies
No Job too Small, No Job too Big
- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15

SPECIAL OFFERS
on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting

FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE
WILL BEAT ANY GENUINE QUOTE
SPECIAL OFFER on EPDM Rubberised Roofing
Home: 01384 872276
Mobile: 07584 081228

ELITE PLASTICS
• Fascias • Softs • Dry Verge
• Pointing • Gutter Cleaning And Repair
Premium Products Expertly Fitted With Full Manufacture Guarantee.
For A Free Quote call
01384 468831 / 07985 575865
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

Plumbing & Heating

P.S. Heating & Plumbing
Combi Boiler change from £950
Specialists in Biasi / Baxi / Worcester Bosch / Vaillant Boilers plus many more
SPECIAL OFFERS ON FULL HEATING SYSTEMS
NATURAL & LPG GAS
Fully Insured up to £2 million
Free Quotation
07961 140885
safe 301067

KEN PERRY
Plumbing & Heating Engineer
Gas Fitting, Boiler Servicing and Immersion Heaters, Multi Point Water Heaters, Landlord's Gas Certificates, Boilers changed
Guild of Master Craftsmen
Gas Safe Registered
STOURBRIDGE 392284

Local Specialists
Our Specialist Section offers you a wide range of local businesses and tradesman to deal with your needs and requirements.

Skip Hire

MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE
Save £££s
All size skips and all areas covered
Same day delivery faster than
A phone call!!!
Open 7 days a week
SCRAP CARS REMOVED FOR FREE
YOU FILL 'EM WE MT 'EM
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

Tree Surgeon

TREE SURGEONS
11 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN ALL ASPECTS OF TREE MAINTENANCE & TREE FELLING, STUMP REMOVAL, HEDGE TRIMMING
CALL US ON:
07817 553 346
01384 387 016
TERRA FIRMA ARBORICULTURE
info@terrafirma-arb.co.uk
www.terrafirma-arb.co.uk

Roofing

M&M Roofing & Fascias
Est 2001
Quality
- uPVC Fascias
- Soffits
- Guttering
- Cladding
- All aspects of roofing
- New roofs/repairs
- Flat roofs
- Tiling/slating
- Dry verges
- Approved fibre glass installer

Also
CONCRETE GUTTERING
Specialist removal
Replacing with
Modern low maintenance
Upvc Fascias and Soffits

All work guaranteed with HomePro Insurance
No Free Gimmicks Family Business
Local References if required
Registered with
HomePro Insurance
Membership No. 554518
TRUST MARK Government Endorsed Standards
FAIRTRADES
Giving homeowners peace of mind
ALWAYS FREE ADVICE AND QUOTATION
Freephone 0800 799 9413
Mob: 07906 724736
to speak to Mark
123 Amblecote Road, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 2YD

Buy and sell with Classified Ads

1. Visit our ClassifiedAds website
classifiedads.expressandstar.co.uk

2. Call our Classified sales team
on 01902 317 878

3. Self Serve - Create your own advert
in print and online - visit:
bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

ClassifiedAds
BUY LOCAL, SELL LOCAL
Brought to you by Express & Star

Classified Ads

Buy Local, **Sell** Local

Funeral Directors

J.T. BROOKES

Independent family run Funeral Directors
24 hour service
Brierley Hill 01384 77098
Kingswinford 01384 296683
Hagley 01562 888041
www.nedowning.co.uk

A TRADITION OF TRUST

"We are very pleased with the service offered by the Express & Star. Our business and advertising needs are always well met."

Wombourne Funeral Services.

For great business results call
01902 319 191

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

Wombourne Funeral Services & Monumental Masons
For your nearest branch
call 01902 892635
wombournefuneralservices.co.uk

Christadelphian

THE NATIONS AND PROPHECY Prophecies concerning modern nations, April 22, at 6pm, The Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, Or write to The Dawn (ref:KCE) 5 Station Road, Carlton, Notts. NG4 3AT for free information pack or ring 01384 886544 for recorded message.

1 Family

Elderly & Disabled

INFLATEABLE Bathing Cushion, never used, £500.
01952 652115.

INVACARE REA CLEMATIS RECLINING WHEELCHAIR
very good condition.
£550.
07941 256657.

WORLD OF MOBILITY
Stourbridge's longest established Family Run Mobility Store
Brettell Lane, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4BS. Open Mon-Sat.
01384 378252

MICROGLIDE MOBILITY Scooter, 4mph, £150 o.n.o. for quick sale. 01902 736537.

QUINGO AIR SCOOTER
3 years old.
Unused for last 12 months.
Good battery and tyres,
£350.
0121 550 5373.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned lifts from £799. New available. 01952 405397/07897 273617

2 Leisure Time

Bikes

FOLDUP ELECTRIC Bike, white, never used (genuine reason), cost £700 12 months ago, sell for £425. For details call 01902 672282.

Camping Equipment

TWO LIBERTY super deluxe kingsize sleeping bags, 3.15kg, temperature + 5 comfort, approx 203cm x 92cm. £40. 07903 915723.

Car Boot Sales

ASHWOOD CAR BOOT Sunday 6am. By Roberts Farm Shop on A449 DY6 0AA. 07710644 90
www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk

Caravans Wanted

CARAVAN WANTED. Can collect asap. Cash paid. Caravan wanted. Call me on 07717 090817.

All Caravans Wanted
Any Age or Condition
CASH * WAITING
Immediate collection
Call Bill on 07825 325 913

LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN/ Motorhome for you and get the best possible price. Severn Valley Leisure, DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

TOURING CARAVAN WANTED. No objection to work, anything considered. Please telephone 07980 365757.

Caravans/ Motorhomes

AVONDALE 96 MAYFLY TOURER
Good condition. Little used. Very clean. 2-berth. 15ft. Lightweight. Motor mover. Hot and cold water. Shower. Flush toilet. Gas cooker. Gas Fire. Warm air central heating. Alarm. Fridge. No damp.
£1,980 ono.
01902 895481. Wombourne.

Holiday Home for Sale - 2014
Willerby Vacation 2 bed, 6 berth pre-loved £16,995
On a Superb family friendly 5 star park with outstanding facilities Nr Welshpool.
www.gwernyddhall.co.uk
Call Steve or Rob
01686 650236.

HOLIDAY HOME FOR SALE
2012 ABI Ambleside 2 bedroom luxurious and spacious model £33,995 on an immaculate & family friendly 5 star park in the breath taking location of historic Harlech with spectacular beaches, castle and golf course minutes away
www.minydonpark.co.uk
call Jayne or Carl 01766 780286

Sports & Leisure

FreeAds
IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

Jumble Sales / Fetes

BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR
Sunday, 22nd April
*** Vintage Sale April 29th ***
Book Pitch now £20
KINVER COMMUNITY CENTRE, DY7 6ER
10.30am - 4pm
Tel: 01384 894464

holidays

Caravan Sales

A CHOICE OF CARAVANS FOR sale from £1995 to £6995, accessory shop, service, repairs,storage. Severn Valley Leisure Stourbridge,DY8 4HP 01384 390183 www.severnvalleyleisure.com

Self Catering Holidays

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET sleeps 4 - 6, On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. May, June, Sep £130pw, July, £180pw, school Holidays £395pw. 07974 226928.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE DALES
Meadow Holidays
Country Cottages / Suites in Wensleydale
" Weeks from £209 per couple
" Weekends just £99 per couple
Families Welcome
Walk in scenic countryside by waterfalls or visit historic market towns with friendly Inns
Brochure (24hrs) 01969 624145
email: rita@meadowholidays.com
www.meadowholidays.com

what's on

Auctions

ANTIQUE / COLLECTABLES AUCTION
CALFHEATH VILLAGE HALL, CALFHEATH, CANNOCK, WV10 7DW
MONDAY 23RD APRIL
AUCTION STARTS 6PM - VIEWING 4.30PM
07775 951464

3 Home & Services

Carpets/ Furnishings

CARPET 20 SQUARE YARDS all unused. Heavy duty. Stainguarded. Genuine reason for sale. Was over £385 bargain £85. 07407 004998.

Furniture

ITALIAN VENEERED
Mahogany, round dining table, four matching chairs,
£350 ono
Matching sideboard,
£300 ono.
Both immaculate condition
07894 039768.

ELECTRIC RECLINER Chair, single motor, very good condition, mink colour, bargain, £100 collection only. Kingswinford. 01384 295232.

In Your Garden

A LANDSCAPING & GARDEN SERVICE
Regular Mowing and Garden Maintenance. Tidy-ups. Jungles cleared and restored. New lawns laid. Fencing and Paving.
01902 683607 or 07939 634708

BOSCH ELECTRIC Lawnmower, as new, £75.
01952 652115.

BARGAIN
COACHMAN 460 / 2 PASTICHE
2 berth, 2005.
End bathroom and shower, including full awning,
Excellent condition.
£4,150 ono.
01562 637925. 07718 761680.

CHESTNUT SHEDS AND FENCING LTD
Manufacturers and Suppliers of Heavy Duty Fully Tanalised Sheds, Summerhouses & All Garden Buildings.
Super Quality/Competitive Prices
Bespoke Buildings Fitting Available
Unit 17, Oak Street, Quarry Bank DY5 2JH
01384 913422/01384 569779
www.chestnutshedsandfencing.co.uk

LAWN TRACTOR 22 HP. 42IN CUT
With collector.
As new. Unused.
Cost £4,000
will accept £1,995.
Can deliver.
07710 169150.

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements(Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also box profile and PVC/polycarb. David Broxton on 07834 489558.

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/ Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/ any live steam. Also Die Cast, Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219/07891 713547
thetrainmaster67@hotmail.com

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID FOR DIE CAST CARS / LORRIES
Britains, Corgi, Dinky, Spot on, Tri-ang, Danbury Mint and Mamod Engines.
Best prices paid.
Any condition.
Collections bought.
Telephone 01922 327897 or 07976 691563.

READERS ARE ADVISED to carefully consider all of their options before agreeing to the sale of any of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDED that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky, CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and TV set ups. 07850 330251.

specialists at your service

Aerials

AA DIGITAL AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST Digital aerials, CCTV cameras, TV wall mount fitted. 07850 330251.

Alarms/Security

PREMIER ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Services

DAVIES & SON BUILDERS
All Building & Roofing Work
Driveways, Landscaping
Over 40 year exp | All work guaranteed
Free Quotes: 07837 994465
01902 579 592

Electrical Services

STEVE JONES ELECTRICAL Rewires/sockets/fuse boards etc. All domestic and commercial work. 07786 858977/01902 846167.

Gardening Services

GARDENS TIDIED from £5 per garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

Fencing

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts, gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid for house clearances and bereavements. Also removals undertaken. **07852 172641 / 07710 360327 / 01902 534021**

ABSOLUTELY ANYTHING CLEARED
FULL OR PART, GARAGES AND SHEDS RUBBISH REMOVED WASTE LICENCE
01384 486456 / 07711661135

Painters/ Decorators

LOVE 2 WALLPAPER
Reliable & Friendly, Professional
Female Painters & Decorators
Attention to detail, competitive prices.
For the Perfect Finish with minimum hassle.
Plastering & Coving Work Undertaken
01384 287577 or 07812 484194
www.love-2-wallpaper.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209/ 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

CALL IAN. Man with a large van. No job too small, no distance too far. 07973 628534, 01902 891535.

KINGSWINFORD REMOVALS AND HOUSE CLEARANCES
We move anything.
Professional service,
45 years' experience,
DFS approved and we take the stress away.
Please call:
07966 281957

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
12 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

Roofing

MG ROOFING
Flat Roofing, Tiling, Roof Repairs, Fascias and Gutters.
Call 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.
www.mgroofingwestmidlands.co.uk

Rubbish Removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed.Load/Remove any Waste, House Clearance. 07969 628382

Skip Hire

BIG JOHN MOVES RUBBISH! No Skips, we load, fast friendly service, 25 Lister Rd, Dudley DY2 8JR, Est 40 years, 01384 232359.

6 Property

Accommodation To Let

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for an Agency to charge a fee simply for the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts.

Overseas Property

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments.

Properties Wanted

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required
We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089
Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

Yes! HOMEBUYERS
We will buy your house fast!
Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!
FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!
Call 01562 277 067
or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport information, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:
1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.
Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

BEAUTIFUL MALTIPOO BOY Pure White (maltese x poodle), 5 months, comes with everything, genuine reason for sad sale, done five weeks dog training, great with children, genuine callers, great home only, £850. 01902 579713.

GREYHOUNDS MAKE WONDERFUL PETS
All neutered, innoculated and microchipped.
Call 01902 291080 or visit
www.gtwolverhampton.co.uk
Greyhound Trust Wolverhampton
@gtwolverhampton

5 Business & Farming

Business Opportunities

READERS are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering into any obligations.

7 Jobs

Full Time General

EXPERIENCED WINDOW FITTER direct or sub-contract required for new build site work. CSCS card is required. Apply to Chapel Windows Ltd. on 01384 571315.

Hotel & Catering

EXPERIENCED BAR/CELLAR PERSON required for busy social club. Evenings and weekends. Email jobvacancy_51@yahoo.com

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

4X4

BMW X3 3.0 SD

M Sport auto, 2008, silver with black leather, usual refinements, loads of history, totally prestine condition, 195k but looks and drives like 50k.

Part X considered or

£5,999.

07411 414284.

LOW MILEAGE

DACIA SANDERO LAUREATE DCi

5-dr hatchback, white, one very careful owner, 27,316 miles, immaculate condition.

£5,500 ono

07729 953812.

FORD FUSION 1.4 PETROL

2006, metallic blue, long MoT, fsh, alloy wheels, very low mileage 8,400, electric mirrors / electric front windows, PAS, excellent condition,

£5,000 ono.

07792 163719.

JAGUAR S TYPE

2007. 112,015 miles.

Red. FSH. MoT October.

Automatic. Metallic paint.

Full leather interior.

Very good condition.

£4,250 ono.

07758 783033.

LOW MILEAGE

JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 DIESEL

Classic saloon, November 2005, manual, MoT February 2019, 47,400 miles, very economical, alloy wheels, very good condition.

£2,595

01384 291853.

PEUGEOT 107 URBAN

1.0 3dr, 2008, 53k, FSH, new clutch,12 month MOT and serviced last week, 3 month warranty.

£2,100

07867 473870

PEUGEOT 3008 1.6 SPORT

2010. 77,000 Miles.

Pearl white. Electric windows.

Electric mirrors.

Air Con. FSH. MoT.

Metallic paint.

Central locking. Cruise control.

PAS.

£3850 ono.

Tel: 07909 981199.

VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN

2007. 64,500 Miles. Grey. ABS. Electric windows.

Central locking. PAS.

Full MoT. Half leather seats.

Very good condition.

£1,899 ono.

07879 403302.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXi

2012. 44,600 Miles. Black.

Very good condition.

FSH. Full MoT. 1.2 litre.

3 door.

£3,499 ono.

07879 403302.

VAUXHALL CORSA SXI

2007, 47,700 miles,1364cc, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, very good condition.

£2,199 ono.

07879 403302.

Cars Under £1500

BARGAIN

CHEVROLET 1.2

Black. 2010 plate.

Good clean car inside and out.

94,015 miles.

MoT till November 2018.

Any trial.

£995 ono.

07787 424218 / 01902 238488.

BARGAIN

CITROEN C3 1.4 DESIRE

2007, 5-dr hatchaback, grey, clean car inside and out, 133,015 miles.

MoT till March 2019,

£1,095 ono.

Any trial

07787 424281. 01902 238488.

CITROEN XSARA PICASSO

2005, 80,000 miles, abs, electric windows, central locking, pas, CD, full MoT, 1.6 16v petrol.

£899 ono.

07879 403302.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

FIAT PUNTO ACTIVE 1242cc,

2004, 3dr hatch back, 10 months MoT, very clean inside and out, many new parts, £425 ono.

01902 683110 or 07737 568564.

GOOD RUNNER

FORD MONDEO 1.8LX ESTATE

2004, grey, short MoT, good work horse, good mechanically.

£450

07990 964860.

BARGAIN

FORD MONDEO LXTDCi

Hatchback, 2002, 2 litre, 8 months MoT. Towbar fitted. Very good. Diesel.

£550 ono.

Telephone 07405 426386.

NISSAN MICRA 1.0

P. Reg.

Red, MoT, FSH.

Excellent runner.

Bargain £375 ovno.

07973 775560.

ECONOMICAL

VW BEETLE

51 reg,

MoT'd.

Good condition.

£625 ono.

Telephone 07864 842076.

MUST BE SEEN

VW POLO 1.2E

2003, silver,

77,000 miles,

MoT to August.

£950

01384 292433.

Classic Cars

CORTINA MK2 WANTED for restoration project. Please telephone 01902 781018.

MITSUBISHI GALANT

1998, 85,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, MoT, central locking, one owner, cruise control, pas, alloys.

£1,499.

07547 360146.

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered.

01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

Commercial Vehicles

FORD FIESTA ECONETIC TDCi

Light goods.

2012.

One owner.

136,000 miles.

MoT'd.

£2,950.

07768 841443.

Scrap Vehicles

A BETTER PRICE

for scrap or damaged cars and commercials. Spares for sale.

NINE LOCKS VEHICLE DISMANTLERS LTD

Brierley Hill 01384 76566 or 70553. Evenings 75397. DY5 3JZ.

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Accessories & Services

TRAILER 4FT x 3FT

with jockey wheel.

£120 ono.

07805 942308.

Clutches/Brakes/ Gearboxes

A CLUTCH CHANGE MOBILE

Renault Scenic, Vauxhall Zafira, Renault Clio, Ford Focus & KA and MANY MORE!! Ring for quotes

30 yrs experience

ALL AREAS COVERED

Call Bob

01384 251328

07972 169554

anytime

Storage

WANTED STORAGE FOR CLASSIC CARS

ie Barn or Unit.

01902 238022 / 07734 412062.

Vehicles Wanted

CROWN MOTORS

Guaranteed best price for your unwanted cars and vans

07903 549849

buyer will call

alan reed cars

Used cars wanted for cash

Top prices paid. HP settled.

Buyer could call.

01562 711083 / 07831 245313

9 Local Information

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk**

(remember to include a name/ contact number for confirmation of receipt)

MAHENDRA (also known as MOHINDER) KAUR (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 384 High Street Smethwick West Midlands B66 3JP, who died on 04/12/2017, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 22/06/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Mr. Gurmel Singh Gill

31 Lancaster Road Brighton BN1 5DG *T525374*

10 Personals

Personal

ACTIVE LADIE EARLY 60'S

With GSOH.

WLTM Gentleman, 58-68 for frienship, outings and holidays.

Non smoker.

Box Number P21152,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton,

WV1 1ES.

INDIAN MAN

Would like to meet single, English woman, for dinners, travelling , in UK / abroad.

Genuine replies only.

Box Number P21144 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

LADY, EARLY 50'S

Young outlook, still knows how to enjoy life, seeking similar female friends to go out with for fun and nice times.

Wolverhampton area.

Box Number P21151 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

MALE 60'S

Easy going, WLTM nice lady, slim build with GSOH aged 50-65 years to enjoy meals/days out, holidays, countryside etc.

Box Number P21153,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

SIGN OF THE TIMES

61 YEAR OLD MALE

With own place and car, young at heart, non smoker, GSOH, sincere and genuine likes old pubs, walks, holidays, most music and interesting places.

WLTM honest warm hearted female, similar age for Friendship, fun and company that will hopefully lead to a relationship, attraction is important so would like a photo (returned).

Box Number P21147 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

WIDOW AGED 75

With GSOH.

Lives in small village.

Enjoys Dining out and Theatre.

WLTM Gentleman companion for Friendship.

Box Number P21146 ,

Express and Star,

Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

*** Cheaper than ebay!

TRIED AND TRUSTED
SELL YOUR CAR FAST LOCALLY

ONLY £9.99** FOR 6 NIGHTS IN PRINT AND ONLINE

FIAT PUNTO 1.0
2001, bright red, 55,000 miles 6 months MoT, radio/CD player new tyres, some history, ideal first car.
Advert example only
£1,200 o.n.o
01902 123456.

PEUGEOT 207 2.0 PETROL
2003, metallic gold, nice interior, all electric, fsh, full MoT, sunroof, radio/CD player, very good condition.
Advert example only.
£2,600 o.n.o
01902 123456.

RENAULT LAGUNA 2.0 DIESEL
005, 5dr, black metallic, full oT, 56K, dealer serviced, sat v, fsh, leather interior, in car system, excellent condition, (Advert example only)
£2,500 o.n.o
01902 123456.

4 GREAT REASONS TO SELL YOUR CAR IN THE EXPRESS & STAR

1. We reach over **680,000** potential buyers a week.
2. At only £9.99 we give **UNRIVALLED** value for money.
3. The price you see is the price you pay, **NO HIDDEN COSTS**.
4. For your convenience you can **TALK TO US**, or **BOOK ONLINE**.

Call us on 01902 317878

or book online at bookanad.expressandstar.co.uk

** Private advertisers only
*** Ebay Price checked 2/1/2018

ClassifiedAds

Denise Lewis after winning the gold in the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur in 1998

Champion Denise is keen to inspire others

Denise Lewis celebrates winning the Gold medal in the Women's Heptathlon at the Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia

Denise Lewis celebrating winning the Gold medal in the Women's Heptathlon at the Olympic Games in Sydney

Champ Denise dreams of a new golden generation

HAVING famously reached the pinnacle of her own sport by being crowned Olympic champion, Denise Lewis wants to make it easier for future generations to chase their dream.

Wolverhampton's golden girl has once more been a regular presence on our TV screens, in her familiar role as pundit for the BBC during its coverage of the Commonwealth Games.

Except this time, Lewis has more invested in the action than most.

Since 2015, she has been president of Commonwealth Games England, the organisation responsible for, among other things, ensuring English athletes have the best chance to shine on the Gold Coast.

Lewis and her team have spent time scouting training venues, sourcing sponsors, while also focusing on the many and varied logistical demands of a major championship.

We meet at the official announcement of a new sponsorship deal with the energy company, npower. Such things are often, understandably, overlooked by fans.

Entwined

Yet for Lewis – and more particularly the athletes – the two are often entwined. "Funding is tight," she says. "We're grateful to have these sponsors come on board. Of course it is great for the brand. But it is also about what we can do for the athletes and how we can continue to flourish."

Lewis replaced double Olympic champion Kelly Holmes in the role after England had finished top of the medals table at Glasgow 2014.

"The challenges have been making sure we get the tone right, the right venues.

"The checking back and forth, right from the Youth Games, that was important, where we bring on talent, how we can support their pathway through to senior events?"

Though three decades have passed since she travelled each day from Tettenhall's Regis School to train in Birmingham – Lewis remains hugely passionate and acutely aware of her roots.

"I think I mirror the beginning of many athletes, particularly from this region," she says.

SPORTING FEATURE

By Matt Maher

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the challenges ahead'"

"There was a lot of travelling, facilities weren't always brilliant. But having something to focus on, to express yourself, can really turn your life around. It's that ripple effect, making someone else think differently or join you in that journey.

"I know who helped me along my way – my schoolteachers, from primary to secondary and beyond, my work colleagues. That inspires me. How can we make a difference? How can we give athletes coming through a reason to compete for their country?"

The theme of progression is one continually repeated by Lewis and from an athlete's perspective is often the very purpose of the Commonwealth Games.

Often referred to as the 'Friendly Games' – it has a well-earned reputation as a breeding ground for future stars. There is no better example than Lewis herself, who twice won Commonwealth gold before going on to be crowned champion at the Sydney Olympics in 2000.

"The Commonwealth Games is so, so important. It's integral to the pathway," she says. "If you can win there, it can really hold you in good stead for the future. There are athletes going to these championships with no senior international experience.

"In my event for example, the heptathlon, Niamh Emerson has been selected for the first time, a great junior athlete and she'll be using that opportunity to see how she will handle her nerves.

"It's a case of: 'I'm here, I've got the vest, let's see how I acquit myself with the challenges ahead'.

"Being so far away from home, the jet lag, the different time zone and the pressure of being such a big team. It's very different. Then you'll have the experienced athletes who are at their second or third and will want to go out on a high."

According to Lewis, those experienced athletes also have a role to play in helping their younger teammates move up to the next level.

"You could be next to an Olympic champion, for example. You watch how they conduct themselves."

Though the entire England team consists of nearly 600 competitors, most of Lewis's attention during the Games will naturally be drawn to the track and field events.

Lewis believes a busy year, with the World Indoors having already taken place and the Europeans scheduled at the end of the summer – has perhaps added another layer of difficulty to a Championship where medals are typically expected rather than hoped for.

"The ambition is big, we have a great team. But you know the friendly rivalry we have down under it's not going to be easy. They (the Australians) prepared and up for the challenge.

"A lot of athletes will have gone into the winter with real gusto, there are three big championships, the Commonwealth Games is one they'll be citing where they can really make their mark. Some athletes aren't able to win on the global stage.

Deliver

"But they can make sure they deliver in an environment which is welcoming, they'll have good weather and all things combined the optimistic ones will be looking to do really well."

And four years from now it is this region which will take centre stage.

The Perry Barr school in which we meet is barely 15 minutes walk from the soon-to-be renovated Alexander Stadium, while a small, until now unremarkable corner of Smethwick will be the home of a new world-class swimming facility.

Lewis has spent the morning running a coaching session for pupils and believes there has never been a better time to begin inspiring the stars of the future. "This is where we start sowing the seeds," she says.

"Something big is happening to Birmingham – it's very exciting and children today in four years they'll be in secondary school and hopefully doing more sport. One of these kids might be on the path to being involved in sport in a serious way.

Staffs hit heights of aerobics excellence

SOUTH Staffs Aerobics Club are targeting national glory after hitting the heights at the West Midlands Regional Championships.

The club, which is based in Hawks Green, Cannock, produced a stunning series of displays that resulted in their best-ever haul of medals with all 28 members returning home with a gold or silver.

Gemma Chilton, who runs the club, was left staggered by the success.

"This is our best year yet for sure," she said. "We have been running for 19 years. Last year we had gymnasts in the top six, but this year we went with 28 athletes and 11 partnerships and all 28 participants came back with a gold or silver medal, and eight of the partnerships won their grade."

Now South Staffs' winners will go on to represent the club and the region at national level. The club are hoping to get more people involved. They have a range of ages, with their youngest participant being three years old, and the eldest 22. Gymnasts must be born between 1997and 2002. To arrange a trial email southstaffsacrobatics@yahoo.co.uk

Oldswinford must play waiting game

OLDSWINFORD cricketers must play a waiting game after rounding off their WCB Indoor League campaign with a victory.

A final ball success against Chaddesley lifted Oldswinford to the top of the table and now they are sweating on the results from Stourbridge and Coombs Wood's final games with both sides able to overhaul the leaders.

Chaddesley posted 110-2 against Oldswinford, who were indebted to a fine knick from Tom Blunt in reply.

He ended unbeaten on 37, hitting the winning runs off the final delivery of the game. Alex Bullingham also impressed with 25 not out.

Quatt just missed out on recording their first win of the season in their final outing as they went down by seven runs to Pedmore.

John Hurdman (26 not out) helped Pedmore to 105-3.

Quatt started their reply impressively with Dan Plank (25 not out) leading the victory charge. But they lost their way in the second half of the innings and were restricted to 98-3.

400/1 for Wolves to be Premier champs

WOLVES may have only just won promotion, but they already being priced up by bookmakers for their first season back in the Premier League.

Nuno Espirito Santo's men have been quoted as 400/1 by bet365 to become champions in their first season back in the top flight – a feat no team has achieved since Brian Clough's Nottingham Forest won the title in 1977/78.

Should your sights be set a little lower, you can get 20/1 for a top-six finish – which would see European football return to Molineux for the first time since the 1980/81 season.

Odds are also priced at 7/4 for a top-half finish and 2/5 for a bottom-half position, while Wolves are as long as 5/1 to make an instant return to the Championship.

Bet365's Steve Freeth said: "There's a bullishness from Wolves fans about their return to the Premier League and you sense the club aren't returning just to make up the numbers."

Sport

Denise says it's all in the Games

Page 35

Glassboys denied by late penalty

Stourbridge 2 Workington 3

STOURBRIDGE endured a flat atmosphere and performance as youthful Workington returned to Cumbria with maximum points.

The Glassboys, coming off a 4-1 weekend victory over Stalybridge, fought back from behind thanks to strikes from Brad Birch and Luke Benbow, but quickly conceded a leveller and succumbed to Steve Rigg's late penalty.

Workington led three minutes in when Rigg crashed in a header off the underside of the bar from Robert Wilson's corner.

Wolves loanee Nicu Carnat tried to inject some life and went close with a twice-hit effort 15 minutes in.

The move of the match brought about the leveller as Carnat, Benbow and Chris Gallagher combined before Birch burst through and lashed in. Stourbridge were on the front foot and they moved in front two minutes after half-time.

Benbow picked his spot with a 25-yard free-kick from the left of the box, caressing over the wall and inside the near post.

But the joy lasted less than a minute as Jordan Holt rolled into Leo Holliday, whose 18-yard shot trickled via a small deflection into the bottom left corner of Matt Gould's goal.

Workington enjoying marginally better fortunes in the final third and when home defender Darryl Westlake tangled with Sam Smith, Rigg stroked in from 12 yards to decide matters in front of the 379 crowd.

Yeltz are checked after visitors grab added time leveller

Halesowen 1 Ashton 1

IMPROVING Yeltz had to be content with a point after Evo-Stik League Premier Division play-off chasers Ashton fired home an equaliser in the final seconds of added time.

Ashton went close in the 10th minute of an even first half when their captain Josh Granite rose high to head Sam Sheridan's free-kick against the crossbar. Just a minute later, Lee Hughes was put clear on the Ashton goal but shot straight at goalkeeper Dave Carnell.

The Yeltz thought they'd taken a 30th-minute lead when Hughes set up Ahmed Ali to slot home, but his effort was ruled out when the referee's assistant pointed out that the earlier throw-in should have been taken by the Robins.

Home substitute Roland Agbor changed the game and caused immediate danger with a 66th-minute shot before he put the Yeltz ahead four minutes later with a fine 10-yard finish at the end of a weaving run. But Liam Tomsett had the last word when he finally beat Platt with a low shot to level with the final move of the game.

Winners – Maria Catalano, left, and Reanne Evans

Dudley double snooker triumph

IT was a double Dudley triumph at the WLBS Festival of Women's Snooker tournament at Leeds when Reanne Evans and Maria Catalano teamed up for a 3-0 victory over Laura Evans and Suzie Opaic to win their first world women's pairs championship.

It was three out of three trophies for Evans. Earlier at the Northern Snooker Centre she came back from 3-1 down to claim the 2018 World Women's 6-Red Championship following a dramatic 4-3 victory against Ng On Yee. Evans had also beaten her rival On Yee to capture the World Women's 10-Red Championship 4-1.

Last week in the World Championship qualifiers Evans' hopes of reaching the finals was brought to an end by former quarter-finalist Dominic Dale, the world number 44.

The 32-year-old from Dudley lost 10-7 to Welshman Dale in the first round of qualifying.

Evans is an 11-time women's world champion and was one of two women included in the 128-player draw for this year's World Championship, the other being reigning women's champion Ng On Yee.

On Yee was knocked out at the first hurdle by Matthew Selt, losing 10-1.

STEEL-NERVED PETTY WINS IT

Stourbridge 35 Tynedale 34

STOURBRIDGE avenged an away defeat but left it until the last minute to secure maximum points against a side intent on challenging for promotion.

The game contained 10 tries, six scored by the visitors, who must rue the fact that their kicker left his best boots behind. It cost them the match and the hope of promotion.

Stour scored from the kick off when an infringement 24 metres out gave fly-half Robbie Forbes, the simplest of kicks in front of the posts. Then Tynedale blindside flanker Joe Mills crashed over three minutes on the clock.

Hooker Jack Lea bowled over the line, Robbie Forbes converted for a slender lead. The visitors gained penalty advantage after a deliberate knock on and industrious hooker David Batey secured lineout ball and the referee confirmed his touch down. Jake Rodgers hit a successful kick.

Tynedale's lead was extended after an incisive attack by James Spencer, which Rodgers was unable to convert. A Tynedale infringement on the 22m line saw Forbes stroked over.

Tynedale started a strong counter, which was finished by their right Winger Aedan Moloney on 37 minutes. This time it was replacement kicker Aaron Smith who missed the extras but 'Dale were nine points clear. Enter man of the match Niall Gibbons whose efforts were rewarded after he broke tackles and headed for the line and Forbes' conversion saw a 20–22 score line.

On 44 minutes a slick break by Robert Connolly and a nice one-two with Heatley saw Rod Petty touch down under the posts and make his own conversion.

Petty slotted a penalty. Nigel Mukarati took control at the base of the scrum and his pop pass to Hal Riley was met with reward. But two tries in quick succession by Oliver Walker with Rodgers' single conversion saw the visitors regain a two-point lead. So Stour went on the attack. Petty took the vital penalty kick in front of a hushed crowd. The roar was enough to confirm a thoroughly deserved five-point bonus win.

Peak performances at Games

Stourbridge's Rachel Wallader in action at the Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast

WORDSLEY'S Dominique Allen has returned home from the Commonwealth Games with a silver medal, whilst Stourbridge athlete Rachel Wallader just missed out.

Allen, the 28-year-old basketball player and her England team lost their final 99-55 to Australia, but she was thrilled with her whole experience on the Gold Coast.

"So happy," she said. "This is one of the highlights of my career. I went to the Olympics. You can't pick. Winning a medal is amazing in the Olympics when it's in your home country. I can't pick which is better.

"I hope basketball gets some really good exposure. This shows that we can win medals on big stages against the best teams in the world."

Wallader hit a season's best in the Commonwealth shot put final but missed out on a medal and the Stourbridge thrower was left to rue what might have been. The 28-year-old threw 17.48m, good enough for sixth in the final. It was a slight regression on fourth place four years ago in Glasgow but that distance would have won her a medal in Scotland in 2014.

"This is the best I have thrown in a major so there are a lot of positives," she said.

Dave likes to be beside the seaside

WITH many runners looking ahead to the London Marathon, there were only a few racers in action at the weekend from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club.

Dave Hickman was first off the spring marathon blocks competing in the Brighton Marathon. The classic 26.2 mile distance is always a test and the Brighton course along the seafront can be doubly hard depending on the weather, either strong winds or blazing sun can ruin a good winter's training. Luckily conditions were in his favour as Hickman finished in 3.46.27 to take 1,942nd place.

Closer to home a number of blue hoop jerseys travelled to Stafford for their rearranged half marathon, originally planned for mid March when the race was cancelled due to snow and put back a month.

Over a testing course with some long dragging inclines Dave Norman was first back into Market Square for the hoops with a town centre finish in 1.24.44 to take 36th place overall and third in his age group.

Graham Wildgoose finished in 1.38.06 in 276th, Richard Tonks was 393rd in 1.42.17, Kathryn Sneyd finished in 1.45.45 in 581st place, Russell Fox was 1224th in 1.59.35, Aimee Pugh was 1611th in 2.09.22. 'Fresh' from last week's Manchester Marathon Claire Hancox and Malcolm Beddall finished in 1752nd and 1753rd respectively in the same time of 2.15.02 and Charlotte Tonks was 2205th in 2.45.04.

Tennis club's four team promotions

WOLLASTON Lawn Tennis Club is celebrating quadruple success.

WLTC Men's A and B teams won the top two places in the Hereford and Worcester Winter League division 7, A just two points ahead of B, for both to gain promotion.

The Men's C team also won promotion after finishing second in division 9, having lost only once and that to champions Worcester.

Wollaston Ladies also had winter success with the Ladies B team winning promotion after winning all their fixtures bar one against league winners David Lloyd Bromsgrove.

★★★

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Ketley, Telford.
Thursday, April 19, 2018

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING
The recycled content of newspapers in 2015 was 62.8%

Domino's® 01384 374666
Stourbridge Industrial Estate,
Mill Race Lane, Stourbridge DY8 1JN
Opening Hours: 11am to 11pm Sunday-Thursday
11am to Midnight Friday and Saturday